

# THE TIMES



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**VALERIE GROVE**  
On the track  
of the elusive  
Nobel laureate  
**PAGE 19**

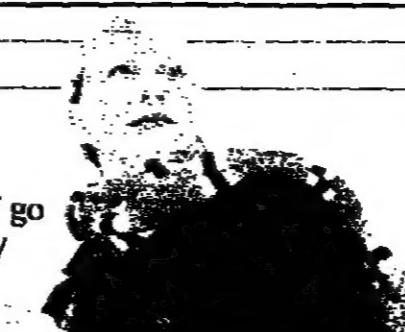


**TODAY**

**GILES COREN**  
Professionals  
who caught  
sea fever  
**PAGE 18**



**LYNNE TRUSS**  
Lets herself go  
at Wembley  
**PAGE 46**



Tories cheer Chancellor who refuses 'to accept short-term popularity' on tax and EMU

## Plain-talking Clarke routs his critics

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

KENNETH CLARKE came in from the cold yesterday with a storming Tory conference performance that vanquished his foes on the Right and strengthened his authority as Chancellor.

The Conservative Party underlined its yearning for unity by giving Mr Clarke the warmest ovation of the week after he told them that there was a growing "feel-good" factor in Britain that would help them win the election.

It was the clearest possible message to Mr Clarke's critics on the back benches that the party wants them to lay off him and spectacularly erased the fears of the leadership as the week began that Mr Clarke might face trouble from activists because of his uncompromising views on tax and the single currency.

As the applause for Mr Clarke rang round the Bournemouth centre John Major joined the Chancellor and they faced the audience together, arms aloft.

It was intended to be a graphic symbol of the closeness between Mr Major and Mr Clarke and to kill any suggestions that the Chancellor could be ditched before the election. Mr Major is known to have been exasperated by some of Mr Clarke's recent outspoken comments on monetary union but he has told friends that to lose him would be unthinkable.

Michael Heseltine was swift to capitalise on the palpable desire for loyalty with a fierce warning to dissidents that



"Kenneth's very popular now but it won't necessarily be in a few months"

they would earn the party's "utter contempt" if they handed power to Labour.

Mr Heseltine became the first senior minister this week directly to confront the threat from Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party. He asked Sir James what he thought he would gain by putting up candidates where it would hurt the Conservatives most.

"What will Britain gain? Do you really want Labour to win? Have you counted the cost?" he demanded.

Mr Clarke's triumph was all the more marked because a key component of the speech was a warning against expecting giveaway tax cuts in the Budget. He also managed to win cheers for the wait-and-see policy on the single currency, a stance which most Conservatives believe cannot

be changed because of Mr Clarke's opposition.

His reception contrasted with the less enthusiastic ovation given to Michael Portillo, one of the regular conference darlings, after a speech in which he, too, for "unity, unity."

The Chancellor appeared to have won over the conference both by his plain-speaking and because it felt he had shown them a way to win. From the start it appeared that the rank and file wanted to back him and he broke the ice when in a clear reference to his defiant pro-European stance he said: "I do not think I can ever be accused of aiming for short-term popularity."

Mr Clarke did not rule out tax cuts, and most Conservative MPs believe he will trim a penny of income tax in next month's Budget. But his speech was a rebuff to rightwingers such as John Redwood who have been calling for much bigger cuts.

His theme was that if the Tories won the election they would achieve a 20p basic rate. He said: "Affordable tax cuts are good for the economy. Unaffordable tax cuts can only damage the economy."

Tory strategists were delighted. Their twin dreads as the week started was that the fringe of the conference would

Continued on page 2, col 5

Conference reports  
Peter Riddell, pages 6 and 7  
Matthew Parris, page 2  
Leading article and  
Letters, page 21



Welcome applause: Gillian and Kenneth Clarke after the Chancellor's speech. "Affordable tax cuts are good for the economy," he said

## Major to promise £5bn boost for NHS

By OUR POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR will today reinforce his commitment to the health service with a "guarantee" of £5 billion in increased spending over five years if the Conservatives win the election.

He is to lift the veil on the Conservative election manifesto by revealing that the document will contain a pledge to achieve growth in real terms in National Health Service spending throughout the next Conservative Government.

The Prime Minister's move is designed to put Labour on the

spot, since Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, has forbidden his Shadow Cabinet colleagues to make spending commitments.

Mr Major will also use his keynote speech at the end of what is seen as a successful Tory conference to herald the introduction of a 21st-century version of the old-style cottage hospitals.

He will announce the immediate introduction of new laws to allow health trusts to employ GPs directly in order to help the NHS tackle the chronic problem of poor standards in general practice in

the inner cities. The legislation will also allow GPs to carry out more minor surgery in their own practices, which would ease the load on hard-pressed hospitals.

Mr Major will emphasise his personal commitment to the health service by saying that "in this country, when you are ill, they take your temperature. In other countries they take your credit cards. While I am in Downing Street, that will never happen here."

The Prime Minister will describe the new plans as an example of the continuing

"quiet revolution" in the NHS and will refer to Britain's family doctors as the "gateway to the health service".

Mr Major will also put his stamp on the conference theme of "opportunity for all", claiming that the Tories will continue to offer five opportunities — to be safe, to get a job, to have more choice in education, to have free health care and to become better off.

The promise to increase real-term spending on health was also made at the last election, since when it has gone up by £4.8 billion to the present total health budget of

£42.6 billion. Mr Major will indicate that he wants a similar increase in the Conservatives' next term.

The Prime Minister's undertakings on spending come in spite of a warning yesterday from William Waldegrave, the Treasury Chief Secretary, that the current expenditure discussions between ministers are proving difficult. In a speech at Bournemouth, Mr Waldegrave emphasised the Government's target of eventually reducing the state's share of total spending to below 40 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).

Teenagers make  
plea for peace

Five Northern Ireland teenagers — four Protestants and one Roman Catholic — have urged the IRA to abandon its terrorist campaign.

The students from Lisburn, Co Antrim, joined together after their school's grounds were showered with shrapnel from Monday's Army base attack.

Page 2

## Former minister found slumped in street after party

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Tory MP Sir Nicholas Scott, 63, was found by police lying face down on the pavement in a confused state yards from John Major's Conservative Party conference hotel.

The former Northern Ireland Minister, who was convicted of drink-driving in March, was unsure of where he was when discovered at 1pm on Wednesday. He had been at an Irish Embassy party.

The incident came 24 hours after Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, had told the conference police would be given powers to confiscate alcohol from drunken teenagers. A Tory party spokeswoman attempted to play down the incident last night, saying: "He was not arrested. He was taken home to his hotel in a police car."

Sir Nicholas was found slumped in Tregonwell Road on the way to his £50-a-night Trouville Hotel. He refused to discuss the matter yesterday. "I will talk to you," he said. Dorset Police, in a statement last night, said: "We can confirm that a man was driven by Dorset Police back to his hotel late on Wednesday night after being found in Tregonwell Road, Bournemouth."

Tory party officials were

dismayed by the incident. "It's

the last thing we needed," said one official last night.

The MP for Chelsea, who has been selected to fight the new constituency of Kensington and Chelsea at the next election, was at his party's conference yesterday but he kept a low profile.

In March Sir Nicholas was banned from driving for a year and ordered to pay £900 for drink-driving and failing to stop after an accident in Chelsea the previous June. The MP's car had shunted another vehicle and a boy aged three was trapped in his crushed pushchair.

Horseferry Road court was told that Sir Nicholas had left the scene without knowing whether the child was hurt.

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Investors cautioned over bank on Internet

By ROBERT MILLER

THE Bank of England has issued a blunt warning to UK investors to "think carefully before handing over their money to an offshore bank that is advertising for depositors on the Internet."

European Union Bank (EUB) is a tiny institution backed by American investors and based in Antigua. Until last month it was chaired by Lord Mancroft, 39, an Old Etonian. Lord Mancroft, who confirmed that he had met Michael Foot, the Bank's director of supervision, yesterday about EUB, said: "I understand their concerns." He added that his contract as chairman of EUB had expired last month.

The sharp warning to UK investors from one of the Bank's most senior directors reflects the concerns of City watchdogs about the possible proliferation of financial services being offered on the Internet and which fall outside their regulatory scope. If any such firm failed investors would not be covered by the UK compensation schemes.

The Bank said of EUB: "This bank is not authorised in the UK and has not sought authorisation. As with other offshore deposits we would advise intending depositors to carry out appropriate due diligence."

Mrs Atkins specifically criti-

cised a controversial celebra-

tion planned at Southwark

Cathedral in London next

month to celebrate the 20th

anniversary of the Lesbian

and Gay Christian Move-

ment. She said there was "a

## Church attack on BBC's anti-gay Thought for Day

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Church of England accused the BBC last night of a serious error of judgment in transmitting a *Thought for the Day* yesterday in which an evangelical Christian condemned the Church's stance on homosexuality.

Ann Atkins, a vicar's wife and mother of four, said on the Radio 4 programme that on the issue of homosexuality the Church was failing to sound the trumpet for biblical morality. She predicted: "Soon, no doubt, we'll have an adulterer's Christian fellowship, a sex-before-marriage Christian fellowship — I see no reason why the list should ever end unless and until the Church comes back to God's standards of morality."

She said she was not surprised by the church report which disclosed this week that numbers entering the ordained ministry were falling: "In an age in which bishops are supporting a cathedral event celebrating 20 years of gay sex we should hardly expect anything else."

The Rev Eric Sheppard, the Church's director of communications, said the BBC was ill advised to have broadcast the piece, which he said was factually inaccurate. "To say that a decline in vocations is attributable to the Church's position on homosexuality is preposterous," he added.

The Rev Richard Kirker, of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement, said Mrs Atkins's contribution had brought *Thought for the Day* into disrepute.

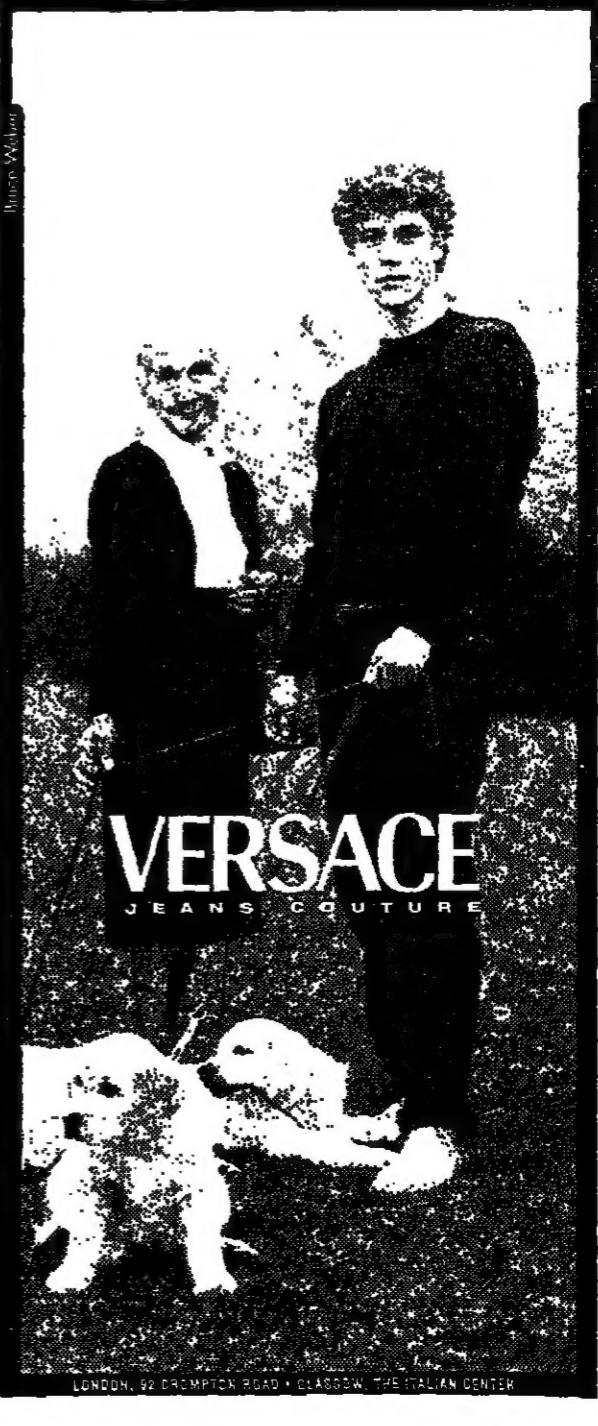
world of difference between homosexual orientation and practice". It was the Church's duty to love everyone, "but it's also the Church's duty to condemn sin and it's this that we're failing to do."

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The Times on the Internet  
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

41

TV & RADIO ..... 46, 47  
WEATHER ..... 24  
CROSSWORDS ..... 24, 48

LETTERS ..... 21, 29  
OBITUARIES ..... 23  
BERNARD LEVIN ..... 20

ARTS ..... 37-40  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 43  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 22

SPORT ..... 41-46, 48  
EDUCATION ..... 35  
LAW REPORT ..... 36

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## Houdini of Love witnesses Chancellor's escape

The Chancellor faced what may have been an historic challenge yesterday. On the success of his speech rode the hopes of his wing of the party. Had this conference sent Kenneth Clarke packing, we would have said the Tory Centre Left was finished for some time.

After the speech, it becomes possible to believe it has only just started. For once, he made an effort and, frankly, walked it. If a man can receive a stomping ovation for promising *not* to cut taxes, how might he be received when he cuts them?

This was quite a good speech, very well delivered, rapturously received. If in a decade we reread the texts of

the conference speeches of 1996, we will cringe at Tony Blair's, wince at Michael Howard's and respect Clarke's, but wonder what made it seem quite such a sensation.

There were three ingredients to his success. Tories had been told by the media that they were depressed and would shortly demonstrate this by booing their Chancellor. Representatives were damned if they were going to oblige. Second, the apparent ideological savagery of the Tory rank and file is often just saloon-bar talk. On matters of substance, particularly the economy and Europe, ordinary Conservatives are more cautious than they sound.

Especially this is true of the women. Third, nobody who has spent the past week at Bournemouth can have failed to notice the craving from the conference floor for unity.

Hit this button, as speaker after speaker has found, and you are engulfed in passionate applause. John Major is popular with representatives. Toward MPs who rock the boat (even when they sympathise with their views) representatives feel something little short of rage. You can pack a fringe meeting with a hundred ap-

plauders for any fringe opinion but when scattered among the mass of conference-goers, they feel the weight of group disapproval and pipe down.

But the conventional wisdom — that professional Tory politicians are sagacious and responsible while the Tory masses are some kind of unstable, Gadarene mob to be kept in check — has been turned on its head. This week in Bournemouth it is the Conservative rank and file which has scented danger and called their swinish MPs to

order. It seems to me that Kenneth Clarke sensed this more clearly and earlier than many and played on it to great effect yesterday. Of course he was also banging his own drum, but he made it sound like nothing but the drumbeat of unity and had the troops cheering him with more warmth ever before.

I watched Steven Norris, watching him. Mr Norris was suspended in a tiny TV studio hung from the wall: the third commentator to spend a day interpreting for BBC viewers.

On Tuesday it was David Mellor: a sideshow of his own beneath the television lights. Perspiring, teeth glinting through the thick soundproofing glass, mouth opening and

closing, goldfish-like, without sound. Mr Mellor resembled a show-trial serial killer in a maximum-security glass box. Representatives craned their necks up in horror and fascination.

Wednesday brought Edwina Currie, in sequinned electric blue such as might be worn by the lady the conjuror saws in half. An illuminated exhibit floating in space, she stole the show like minor royalty in an opera box.

And, for yesterday's freak show, Steven Norris. Roll up! The Houdini of Love, exhibited in a box. Norris was there to explain the conference to the world. But the world stared back, more interested in the explanation for Mr Norris.

'Bombs do not ask questions, they silence them — do not be silenced'

## Pupils plead with IRA to abandon campaign

BY NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

FIVE teenagers from across Northern Ireland's sectarian divide have issued a public plea for peace and urged the IRA to abandon its campaign.

The A-level students — four Protestants and one Roman Catholic — at Wallace High School, in Lisburn, Co Antrim, joined together after the school's grounds were showered with shrapnel from Monday's double car bomb attack at the neighbouring Army barracks. The five pupils, who collected the shrapnel after the attack, decided to take a public stand and composed a statement pleading for a return to the peace process. Peace campaigners said the youngsters' appeal provided one of the few signs of hope.

Sandra Holmes, 17, who is studying for three A levels and who hopes to become a doctor, said after helping to draft the statement: "We just wanted people to hear what has been the unheard voice of the younger generation in this country. The generation that is growing up know nothing but conflict before the ceasefire. We don't want future generations to grow up with that acceptance of terrorism."

The teenagers, who were holding a debate at the time of the attack, described the bombs as a "blast from the past". They wrote: "The unanimous reaction of those present was one of shock and disbelief as our hopes of a secure future were shattered. What now? We have been described as 'tomorrow's generation'. But by tomorrow our thirst for peace could be sacrificed by the relentless pursuit of political ends by a violent minority in our community."

"We grew up in a society where conflict was accepted as the norm. Had it not been for the recent ceasefire which helped us to realise what normality should be like, we may have continued to accept violence as an everyday way of life in Northern Ireland."

The pupils, whose school motto is *Esperance*, asked what they could hope for. They wrote: "Bombs do not discriminate. The pupils on the playing fields were of all creeds and colours. Bombs do not ask questions. They silence them. If you feel as we do, do not be silenced, stand up and be counted."

The pupils said that they did not believe they were brave to go public. Stacey Wray, 16, said: "If you believe in something strongly enough, you should be prepared to stand up for your convictions. I had no qualms about putting my name to the statement."

Karl Byrne, 16, another



Stacey Wray, left, and other pupils with shrapnel found on the school fields after the attack on army barracks

## Adams attacks Bruton for 'politics of the soundbite'

BY AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A WAR of words broke out last night between the Irish prime minister and Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, following John Bruton's comments comparing the IRA with the Nazis.

Mr Adams said many would resent Mr Bruton's use of the term. Mr Bruton compared the IRA to Nazis in a speech to the Irish parliament on Wednesday, during which he condemned the IRA for its attack on the British Army base in Lisburn.

Last night Mr Adams said it was clear whether the man arrested was connected with a photo issued by the police of a suspect who bought a car used as the getaway vehicle.

to slip into similar name-calling, "but such an approach would be deeply unhelpful at this dangerous time".

He said Mr Bruton had a responsibility to take the lead in creating a viable political alternative to conflict: "This must include defending the rights of nationalists in the north. But it also means standing up to the British Government and promoting the Irish national interest."

He said Mr Bruton knew republicans were committed to peace. He added that it was a matter of record that "every

commitment which I and Sinn Fein made we kept".

Mr Adams said he would resist the temptation of a "knee jerk" response to Mr Bruton's remarks. He said there was a need to avoid "the politics of the easy soundbite".

Sinn Fein was still welcome at the Northern Ireland peace talks — provided a "credible ceasefire" was restored. Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew said yesterday. Sir Patrick said he wanted Sinn Fein to join the talks, which he said were making progress.

## Casual worker wins right to sick pay

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY  
SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A CARE worker won an important victory for casual employees when the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday that she was entitled to statutory sick pay. Employment lawyers predicted that larger employers and the Department of Social Security would face huge bills as thousands of workers in industries such as catering and retail gained the right to £56-a-week benefit for up to six months.

Sally Brown, 45, worked with the mentally ill for nine months until she injured her neck in 1992. Her employer, the Granta Housing Society, refused to give her statutory sick pay, arguing that she had been employed on a daily contract for four or five days a week.

Its decision was upheld by an independent adjudicator at the Department of Social Security but her case was

taken up by the Child Poverty Action Group. Cherie Booth, QC, in written argument to the court, stated: "If liability to pay statutory sick pay could be avoided in circumstances such as these Parliament's intentions will have been thwarted."

Lord Justice Nourse said that because Mrs Brown, from Cambridge, had continuity of employment for more than three months, her contract had become indefinite under the Employment Protection Act. Her claim for £1,200 sick pay, covering almost six months, will return to the Social Security Appeals Tribunal with a direction to reconsider.

David Thomas, legal officer for the Child Poverty Action Group, said: "Sally was to all intents and purposes a permanent employee and the court has confirmed that her employers should not be able to escape their obligations simply by using the device of a series of daily

contracts." Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of Unison, said: "This is a breakthrough and has important implications for casual, low-paid workers who have been excluded from this basic entitlement."

William Garnett, head of the employment division of the solicitors Bates Wells & Braithwaite, said: "It has serious consequences."

**Small firms can reclaim most of their bill for statutory sick pay from the Department of Social Security but bigger companies usually have to find the money themselves. David Cockburn, chairman of the Employment Lawyers' Association, said: "The courts are being vigilant to stop employers being able to evade their responsibilities by a clever form of words."**

Mrs Brown said: "I am pleased that I have been able to set a precedent for other people in my position."

## Clarke routs critics

Continued from page 1  
exploded by unsustainable tax cuts. Mr Clarke said: "My Budget must create the climate for an honest election campaign in which we play fair and straight with the public — and win five more years." The speech was a reminder to Conservative MPs that Mr Clarke still regards himself as a contender in a future leadership race.

The key conference announcement was Gillian Shephard's plans to improve school discipline, parental choice and standards. Laws giving schools greater powers to discipline and expel unruly pupils were promised by the Education Secretary.

Mr Clarke argued that he had to create the climate for continued economic success.

Repeating his argument that Tory voters would not be

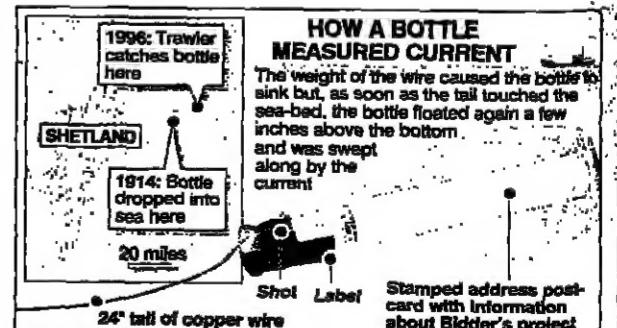
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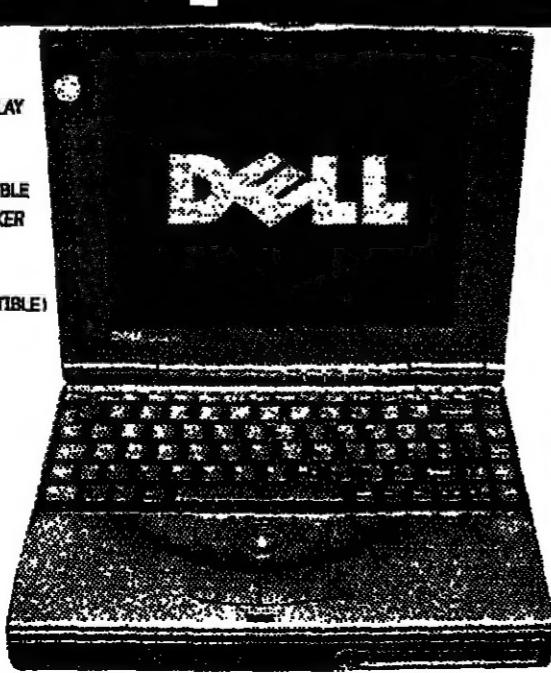
## Time and tide wait

A message in a bottle thrown into the sea more than 80 years ago has set a world record for the longest time between sender and finder. John Forman, 40, a fisherman from Peterhead, Aberdeenshire, spotted the bottle among his catch about 35 miles east of the Shetland Islands. The "message" was a pre-paid postcard from government scientists. The bottle had been thrown overboard at 3am on April 21, 1914, as part of an experiment to measure seabed tidal currents. It had travelled five miles. Mr Forman was given the standard £1 reward by the Scottish Office.



Conference reports pages 6, 7  
Leading article, page 21

## Budget problem? Business solution.



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# Christmas kiss led to sex with French student, driver says

BY TIM JONES



A LORRY driver yesterday claimed a young French student flirted with him and consented to sex within two hours of accepting a lift.

Stuart Morgan, 37, said he started laughing and joking with Celine Figard soon after she got into the cab. He had picked her up at Cheevely services in Berkshire on December 19 last year.

Mr Morgan, of Poole, Dorset, denies murdering Mlle Figard and dumping her body behind a hedge after keeping it in the lorry cab for nearly ten days. He told a jury at Worcester Crown Court that he had agreed to give Mlle Figard, 19, a lift to Southampton after she told him she was travelling to spend Christmas with her cousin at a hotel in Bordonbridge, Hampshire.

Within minutes, he said, they began exchanging personal details. "We were laughing and joking about flirting in general. I have the character to flirt happily and playfully with women and we were flirting together."

"I was taking the mickey out of some of the words she was using and laughing over her. Because I couldn't hear her, she was leaning over the central console, touching my arms and legs."

He said Mlle Figard told him of substances she had smoked. "We just carried on



Mlle Figard: she agreed to sex, said Morgan

laughing and messing about."

After driving for less than an hour, he said he stopped at a lay-by to fix the lights on his trailer and decided to put on his kettle to make a cup of tea which he told her would cost "a kiss for Christmas". She complied and "it carried on from there", he said. "I removed my underclothes and she undressed herself. She took off all her clothes except for her brassiere."

There was a considerable amount of foreplay and messing around and then we had sexual intercourse. The whole thing lasted for an hour or an hour and a quarter."

Mr Morgan, who admitted having sex with other women in his cab, denied using any force against Mlle Figard. He said that he dropped her off in Southampton. "We kissed and

she went off. I caused no injury to her whatever."

He claimed that a spade, an axe and hacksaw blades he bought in Bude, Cornwall, three days later were to dig him out of snow, for repairs, and for tree-cutting. They were not to be used, he said, to dismember Mlle Figard's body before burying it.

He claimed he had altered the tachograph because he was frightened. "I didn't want my wife to find out I was having sex with other women and reports in the press were making things even more horrendous. I am only human and I panicked. I knew I hadn't caused any offence and I was terrified."

Mr Morgan told the jury he had shaved off the beard he had when he picked up Mlle Figard because he had accidentally singed part of it on Christmas Day while flicking a cigarette lighter. He said that blood on a mattress from his cab had come from another driver and underwear found after the body was dumped did not resemble that worn by Mlle Figard.

Mr Morgan had the jury he had bought two bottles of a rare champagne not sold in Britain and of the type known to have been carried by Mlle Figard from a lorry driver and had arranged for them to be given as Christmas presents to two women garage workers.

The case continues.

## Police watched 'as hitman fired at his victim'

BY ADRIAN LEE

POLICE marksmen disguised as gas workers shot a contract killer moments after he fired three bullets into his intended victim, a court was told yesterday. Michael Boyle, the hitman, and Anthony Brindle, his victim, were part of a gangland feud involving criminals in Dublin, Northern Ireland and London, it was alleged. There had already been several deaths.

The two officers, hidden in a British Gas van at Rotherhithe, southeast London, had watched as Mr Boyle fired three times and then chased his injured victim, "intent on finishing him off", Nigel Sweeney, for the prosecution, told the Old Bailey. Fearing for Mr Brindle's life, and their own, the policemen fired 14 times at Mr Boyle. Both men survived. Mr Boyle, 48, from Dublin, denies attempting to murder Mr Brindle, 34, in September 1995, and possessing two handguns.

It was alleged that Mr Boyle, disguised in a wig,



Brindle: said to be part of bloody gangland feud

drove in a stolen van to the small square where his victim lived and parked ten yards from Mr Brindle's car. He removed the van's wing mirror, opened the driver's window and then hid in the back behind a makeshift curtain, said Mr Sweeney, giving himself a field of fire.

But, as Mr Boyle lay in wait with a Browning semi-automatic pistol and a Magnum, police were also watching, having learnt of the plot from Irish colleagues. They hoped to wait until Mr Boyle showed his hand, then intervene.

But events did not go according to plan and Mr Boyle opened fire from inside the van, hitting Mr Brindle in the elbow, chest and thighs. He staggered back to his house with Mr Boyle in pursuit. Mr Sweeney said:

The officers got out of their gas van and challenged Mr Boyle but he did not stop and they fired from rifles. He was hit in the elbow, chest, shoulder blades and left heel.

The court was told that Mr Boyle had been a police informer in Ireland, using the alias Pius O'Callaghan. He told police that Peter Daly, his 37-year-old wife was killed by a single blast. Their 20-year-old daughter escaped through bedroom window, while another man was taken to hospital with gunshot wounds.

The killings were the latest in a series of violent incidents in the Las Lomas area of Marbella. Within the past month two other people, including a policeman, have been shot dead and another policeman seriously injured.

## Just when you thought it was safe to swim in Oxfordshire

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE beast may not have been quite as voracious as Jaws, but it knew what it fancied when it saw Stephen Rees splash past. The monster pike's cold, prehistoric eyes flickered for only a moment before it launched itself at the unfortunate swimmer like a torpedo out of a tube.

The razor-sharp teeth of the most fearsome of freshwater fish sank into Mr Rees's arm. There was a short struggle between man and Leviathan before the 20lb, 4ft creature thought better of trying to drag its victim to the bottom of the River Cherwell. Even so, the attack left the 31-year-old plumber from North Astor, Oxfordshire, in need of hospital treatment.

After having eight stitches inserted in his wounded limb, and a tetanus jab, Mr Rees said: "I couldn't believe it. I suddenly felt something in my arm and thought I'd

caught it on branches. When I looked down I saw this pike dart away. The blood was pouring from my arm and the water was going red."

Mr Rees, a father of two and an angler, has returned to the spot near Somerton with rod and line to exact his revenge, but has yet to get a bite. "I'm determined to catch him."

James Holgate, editor of *Pike and Predator* magazine, said: "It's quite rare for a pike to bite a human. They normally

go for small fish and the occasional duckling."

However, a pike recently grabbed a pet terrier paddling in a lake at Woking, Surrey, and dragged it under water before the dog managed to extricate itself. In Konakovo, Russia, an angler who landed a 10lb specimen tried to kiss it. The fish sank its teeth into his nose and doctors had to prise it off, even after it had been de-pinned.

The largest pike caught in Britain was a 46lb 13oz specimen captured in 1992 at Llandegfedd Reservoir in South Wales. In Ireland, however, a 53lb monster was caught in Lough Conn in 1920.

The pike's ancestors can be traced back more than 20 million years. Fossils show that, like the shark, it has hardly changed — a case of Nature getting it right first time.



The pike: a fearsome freshwater predator

الحادي عشر



Mike Cordy, debut novelist whose work has been compared to Michael Crichton's

## Writer creates £1m Miracle with first book

BY JASON COWLEY

A MAN who gave up his £70,000-a-year job as a marketing executive to become a writer is on the way to becoming a millionaire before selling one copy of his first novel.

At the Frankfurt Book Fair last week, *The Miracle Strain* by Michael Cordy, 35, was sold to the British publisher Bantam Press for £150,000. Sales from continental houses have already reached £170,000. Bidding has begun for the American rights and is expected to top \$1 million.

*The Miracle Strain* is a satire set in the near future, said to be similar to Michael Crichton's techno-thrillers.

It concerns a bio-technologist who invents a "genoscope", an instrument that decodes the genetic software of man. He survives a assassination attempt by a millennial cult that believes Carter is a demonic figure asserting the supremacy of science over religion. Hollywood studios are vying for the film rights.

*The Miracle Strain* was discovered by the literary agent Patrick Walsh, who looked at it only as a favour to a friend. It arrived on his desk in early September just as he was about to go on holiday to Corsica: "I really didn't want to read the book. We get stacks of unsolicited manuscripts. Nevertheless, I put it in my bag and began reading it on the beach. I couldn't believe how good it was. I instantly

regretted being on holiday. I was terrified that another agent would get hold of it."

In fact Mr Cordy, with no contacts in the book business, had not sent it elsewhere. A former marketing executive in the drinks industry, he had only begun writing fiction two years ago. He rose most days at 6am to work on his novel, but because of the constraints of his job quickly became exhausted. In the end, supported by his wife, Jenny, who also works in marketing, he resigned in October 1994 to devote himself to writing.

"It was a terrifying gamble," Mr Cordy said yesterday. "When I told my boss that I was leaving he said, 'I can't argue with that; it's a bit like wanting to become a priest.' Although I did an English degree at Leicester University, I had no idea that I would succeed as a writer. There were times when my wife and I sat down and wondered what the hell we had done, especially as we had put having children on hold and much of what I produced in the first nine months of writing was rubbish."

Other debutants whose books were recently discovered by agents include Nicholas Evans, whose *The Horse Whisperer* earned £1 million in rights sales, and the former banker Michael Ridpath, whose *Free to Trade* became a bestseller after being taken up by Blake Friedmann.

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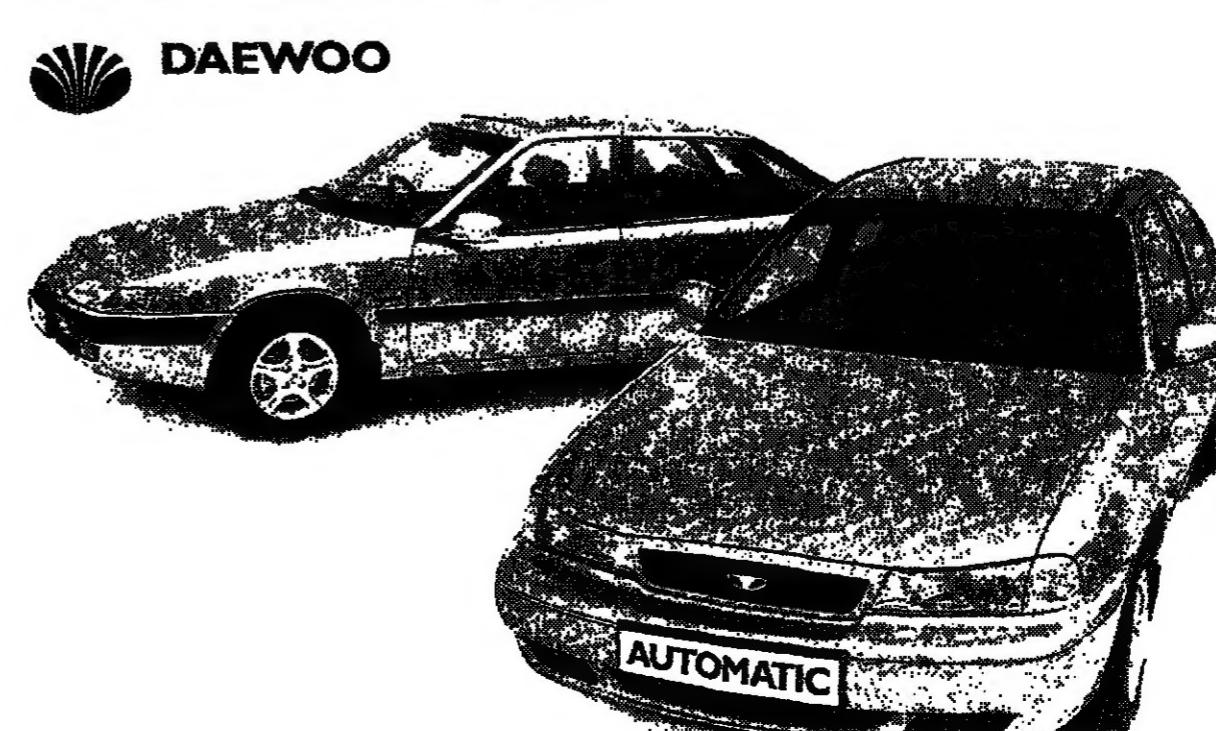
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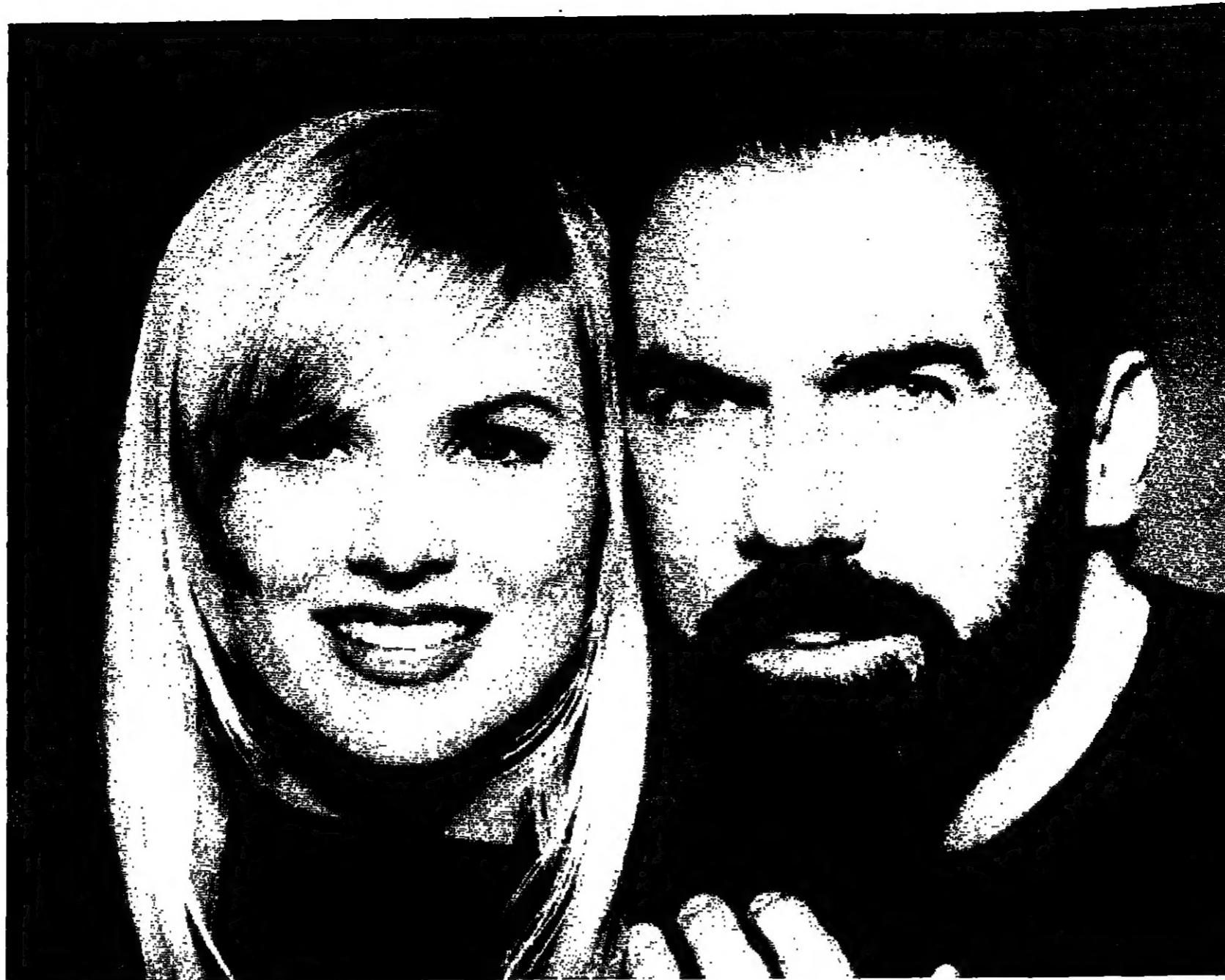
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# Search for contacts after student, 18, dies from rabies

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

DOCTORS appealed yesterday for contacts of a student who died from rabies to come forward for vaccination. Nurses and known friends of the 18-year-old Nigerian have already been treated.

The man died in the tropical diseases unit of a London isolation hospital on Sunday night after being admitted with a high fever, spasms and an inability to swallow his saliva. He had been ill for three days before entering the accident and emergency department of Whittington Hospital, Highgate, north London, on Saturday night.

He was transferred to Cripps Wood Isolation hospital at Muswell Hill, north London, on Sunday afternoon but died several hours later after suffering a spasm. It is thought that the student, who has not been named, contracted the virus after being bitten by an animal or a visit to Nigeria.

Doctors originally diag-

nosed malaria and considered rabies only after he died. After an urgent meeting on Tuesday, they started to trace doctors and relatives who had been in close contact with him, to offer immunisation and counselling.

Dr Michael Kelsey, a microbiology consultant at the Whittington hospital, said health chiefs had tracked down 23 people who may have been at risk of infection. "It was vital for us to trace all the people he was in contact with since he returned from Nigeria," he said. "They had been at risk because some of them had had contact with his saliva."

Dr Kelsey said the student had been suffering prior to his hospital admission. "He had been unwell, according to our records, for three days prior to his admission. He was agitated, he didn't want to swallow his own saliva and was unable to spit it out.

"Rabies can kill within days

and we think he was in the final stages of the disease. He had malaria, we know that for a fact, because we diagnosed that on his admission."

A post-mortem examination was carried out yesterday and the results confirmed the diagnosis. The Health Department said that the risk of transmitting the virus through saliva was small.

Dr Anthony Bryceson, a consultant physician at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases, London, said: "There are no records of rabies transmission within a hospital. The risk to staff is theoretical. However, rabies works so rapidly it is almost immediate. It is a virus that infects the immune system and will within a couple of days get to work attacking the system. It literally wipes out the brain."

The last known rabies death in Britain, in 1988, was that of a Scunthorpe engineer bitten by a dog while working in Bangladesh.

## MEDICAL BRIEFING

### Medical staff face risk of infection

The spit of a rabid animal carries the deadly virus that is transmitted to the next victim through a bite. The virus travels from the wound to the patient's central nervous system where it causes damage to the brain, inducing insanity, or to the spinal cord, bringing on paralysis.

Medical staff who have been dealing with the Nigerian patient who died from rabies will be offered prophylactic injections. These vaccinations are advisable not because the patient has bitten them — although crazed sufferers have been known to bite — but because the spit alone of a rabid human or animal can infect others.

Infection occurs when the virus in the spit comes into contact with the mucous membrane — the eyes or lips for instance — or an open wound. There have even been cases when the disease has been spread merely by inhalation.

A patient who develops rabies is likely to have been infected one to two months earlier. But the incubation period is sometimes only a few days; the medical staff who have been offered

immunisation in this case would be well advised not to delay their acceptance. The speedier the injection the greater the cover.

The disease can be divided into furious rabies, in which the dog, or other infected animal, becomes restless and savage, and dumb rabies in which damage to the spinal cord is greater than to the brain, bringing on paralysis.

When humans catch rabies the first signs are usually inflammation, pain and irritation at the site of the bite, followed by flu-type symptoms including depression and irritability. The alternative name hydrophobia is derived from the effect that drinking or even touching water has on the patient: it causes terror and agonising spasms in the muscles used for swallowing.

It is often said that death is inevitable in rabies but with modern intensive care lives can be saved. Treatment includes extensive and immediate wound cleaning followed by immunisation.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

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### Designers pick far-out venues

FROM GRACE BRADBERRY IN PARIS

FASHION designers are plunging Paris Fashion Week into chaos as they search for ever more atmospheric venues in which to hold their shows.

Geographical dispersion is the main problem, with designers abandoning the Carrousel du Louvre, purpose-built for fashion shows. Yesterday a reluctant Christian Lacroix returned to the Louvre, explaining that he wanted "to make life simpler for everyone," particularly photographers.

Among the highlights of his spring-summer collection were long "balloon" skirts in African-inspired prints and 18th-century style jackets in striped taffeta.

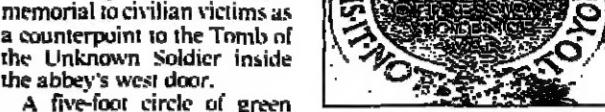
Rifa Ozbek, a former British Designer of the Year, held his show at the Moulin Rouge, while Martine Sitbon and Jean Paul Gaultier chose the Elysee Montmartre, another cabaret theatre. The most bizarre venue was the warehouse in an industrial suburb used by the Belgian designer Dries Van Noten.

THE Queen unveiled a memorial at Westminster Abbey yesterday to the millions of civilians who have suffered and died from the inhumanity of the 20th century.

Victims of violence from around the world joined her as she and the Duke of Edinburgh laid a wreath of white flowers and sprigs of rosemary: a 14-year-old Bosnian boy blinded and without hands, survivors of Auschwitz, Belsen and the Soviet gulags, bereaved Protestants and Roman Catholics from Northern Ireland, a Christian Palestinian refugee, a survivor of genocide in Rwanda, a South African oppressed by apartheid and a teacher from Dunblane primary school.

The new memorial was the idea of the Very Rev Michael Mayne, Dean of Westminster, who is about to retire and who for several years has wanted a memorial to civilian victims as a counterpoint to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier inside the abbey's west door.

A five-foot circle of green Cumberland slate, the new



The new memorial

## Plaque honours civilian victims of 20th century

BY ALAN HAMILTON

plaque was created by the Irish sculptor Ken Thompson and bears two simple inscriptions. "Remember all innocent victims of violence, oppression, war" is set in the middle; around the edge is a further text: "All you who pass by, is it nothing to you."

The stone has been set in the pavement immediately outside the abbey's west door but still within the railings. Its position is intended to allow people of all faiths to see it without having to enter a church. An alternative proposal to erect a statue depicting a fleeing mother and child was turned down by planning officials at Westminster City Council, who feared it might become a focus for protest.

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# Shephard pledges more discipline in schools

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

GILLIAN SHEPHARD yesterday announced plans to tighten school discipline and improve parental choice in the run-up to the general election.

New laws giving schools greater powers to discipline and suspend unruly pupils will feature prominently in a wide-ranging Education Bill. Teachers will be allowed to give pupils detention without seeking parental permission, while head teachers will be able to suspend pupils for up to 45 days and refuse places to children expelled from two other schools.

Opinion polls suggest that public confidence in government education policy is slipping; ministers admit privately that policies allowing greater parental power have weakened teachers' ability to discipline pupils.

Mrs Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, said that measures to increase selection and assisted places would highlight clear differences between the two main parties and denounce Labour's "hypocrisy and double standards" over its opposition to selection.

She said grant-maintained schools would be allowed to select 50 per cent of their pupils, specialist schools 30 per cent, and all schools 20 per cent, up from the current 15 per cent.

At last week's Labour Party conference, Tony Blair underlined the importance of education as a campaign issue when he told delegates that the three most important policies were "education, education and education". He ridiculed Conservative plans to restore school discipline. "They have had 17 years to do this, it is not much good just saying it a few months before an election."

Labour has been putting forward proposals to deal with discipline for the last few years.

On the issue of assisted places at private schools, which Labour has promised to abolish, Mrs Shephard announced that the scheme would be extended to allow all preparatory schools to apply for assisted places help, rather than only those attached to secondary schools. The change, which she said would

add only a fraction to the current £17 million assisted places budget, is expected to benefit girls' preparatory schools in particular.

The Education Secretary emphasised the importance of education as an electoral issue. "This country and her children are too important to hand over to the confusion, the hypocrisy and the double standards which are the hallmarks of new Labour," she said. "That is why this coming election is so important. It is the task of Conservatives to make sure that the ambitions and aspirations of all Britain can be fulfilled."

She also confirmed that in December the Government will publish a White Paper setting out plans to strengthen qualifications for post-16 education, give pupils between 14 and 16 more opportunity to gain work experience and extend work-based training.

In the debate earlier Elizabeth Smith, a teacher and prospective parliamentary candidate for Edinburgh South, said it was essential to extend the assisted places scheme, which allowed 40,000 children from low-income families to share the opportunities on offer at some of Britain's best schools.

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# Right suffers crucial setback in influencing election strategy

The Tory Right has suffered a setback this week. It is probably only temporary, but it is nonetheless crucial in determining Tory strategy for the pre-election period. Ahead of the conference, the Right had argued that an early commitment to rule out British participation in a single currency and big tax cuts could be election winners for the Tories. Both demands have been rejected this week, and the Cabinet sceptics have acquiesced, suppressing their doubts (in public) and saving their ammunition until after the election.

That was the real significance of Kenneth Clarke's conference tri-

umph. He was cheered more for his commanding style and authority than for expressing home truths, on both taxes and Europe, which most in the audience reject. The leadership has skilfully exploited the widespread desire within the party for unity to isolate any dissenters. Michael Heseltine even attacked Sir James Goldsmith by name. No wonder, Tom Spencer, the strongly pro-European chairman of the Tory MEPs, sounded upbeat yesterday.

Most significant has been Mr Clarke's success, highlighted by the public display of support from a relieved John Major. That should dampen, if not end, the

sniping against him. The attacks were always absurd. The forced departure of Mr Clarke would have wrecked the Tories' slim re-election chances and could even have brought down the Government. The unequivocal stand taken by Mr Major and Malcolm Rifkind has now settled policy on the single currency, though the Cabinet sceptics will probably try to reopen the issue in the new year.

Mr Clarke also lowered expectations about the Budget. Talk of big tax cuts has always been a

fantasy of the economically illiterate. The public would anyway be dubious. Such demands ignore the state of the economy and of public finances. The recent strong growth in living standards and worries over inflation mean that the next move in fiscal and monetary policy should be a tightening, not a loosening. Moreover, while the "Green Budget" produced by the Institute for Fiscal Studies and Goldman Sachs is positive about the medium-term outlook for public borrowing, it warns against sizeable

tax cuts. That is because existing public spending plans are already very tight, involving much lower rates of growth than have been achieved for long in the past.

With the Cabinet's EDX committee on public spending about to start intensive discussions about next year's plans, Mr Clarke was right to warn that the priorities are to keep borrowing coming down, ensure tight control of spending and properly fund key services, "only then, will I assess the room for any tax cuts this November". At a later fringe meeting, William Waldegrave, the Chief Secretary, warned that "there are never any easy savings

and there is always plenty of pressure to spend more". The lower inflation rate permit some reduction in expenditure totals, but this is likely to be small overall, allowing just some cosmetic tax cuts.

Mr Clarke set far-reaching goals for the next parliament: a 20p basic rate of income tax, reducing and then abolishing inheritance and capital gains tax, keeping inflation below 2½ per cent and getting and keeping public spending below 40 per cent of national income. He described these as "guiding stars", but with no timetable. Mr Waldegrave was more ambitious in saying that

once spending had been reduced below 40 per cent, "in due course we should look further at a lower target". That would permit real reductions in the tax burden, as opposed to pre-election gestures. But it would require a fundamental review of spending plans — switching some financing of health, social security and education to the private sector. None of that is possible in a pre-election period. Mr Clarke deserved his applause, if only for his candour and realism in emphasising the limits on what can be achieved in the short term.

PETER RIDDELL

# Clarke challenged to show gains of economic recovery

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH CLARKE was urged, yesterday to back his optimistic view of the economy without tax cuts in next month's Budget.

Tories at the party conference agreed with his assessment of the recovery and his reluctance to offer the electorate tax cuts as a bribe. But Christopher Fraser, prospective parliamentary candidate for Mid Dorset and North Poole, said that the Government should demonstrate that its policies had worked. "How about showing people soon — perhaps in November?"

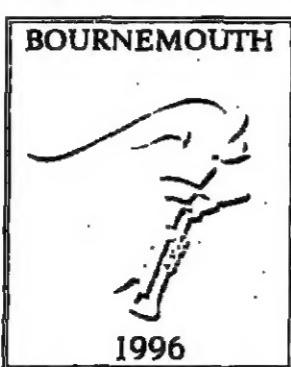
David Cameron, the candidate for Stafford and a former special adviser to Norman Lamont, said he realised that there was only limited room for tax cuts in the Budget. But these should be focused on those who had been hit hardest in the recession, and particularly the low-paid. They should go to small businesses where people took money out of their own pockets to put into companies to keep them going" and where people kept wages down to keep their businesses afloat.

Mr Clarke said that the key to tax cuts was to control public spending and reduce public borrowing. Setting the scene for the Budget, he said he would keep borrowing coming down and ensure tight control of spending while properly funding key services such as hospitals, schools and the police.

"And when I have done those things, and only then, I will assess the room for any tax cuts this November. As I said to conference last year — and I say it again — for Conservatives, tax cuts must be kept.

"My Budget this year will not just be set with a few months in mind. We all have many years of Conservative government in mind. We are going to govern much longer than the next few months."

Mr Clarke argued that he had to create the climate for continued economic success over the next five years. Repeating his argument that Tory voters would not be duped by unsustainable tax cuts, he said: "My Budget in



BOURNEMOUTH

1996

November must create the climate for an honest election campaign in which we play fair and straight with the public — and win five more years.

"At the coming election, tax is going to be a big issue. The question sensible people will ask is not who has cut taxes in any one year, but who will cut taxes over many years."

Mr Clarke urged Tories to go out and fight the next election on the economy. If Labour fought the election on the economy, we will win. And with a Tory government back in power, the economy will do even better."

The average family would be £700 better off this year — after inflation and after tax — than at the time of the last election, he said. Unemployment had fallen by nearly 900,000. The country was enjoying the longest run of low inflation for 50 years and the lowest mortgage rates for 30 years.

"Between now and the election,

## Cheers all round

Conference may have fallen for the charm of Kenneth Clarke, but its old darling, Michael Heseltine, won the day's contest for the longest applause. Mr Clarke registered 94 decibels and kept the audience on its feet for four minutes 20 seconds.

Mr Heseltine, though, trumped this by a further ten seconds at the same decibel level. Michael Portillo trailed in a low-key third with a subdued 1min 45sec at a mere 90d.

## Junior 'OBE' scheme planned

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LEADING figures from sport, the arts and industry were urged yesterday to rally round a new "junior OBE" scheme to reward young people's contributions to the community.

Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, challenged celebrities and business leaders to support the Young Achievers scheme, which is based on proposals by Martyn Lewis, the television newscaster, who has criticised the media for concentrating on bad news and failing to praise positive work, particularly by the young.

The scheme, to be launched next year, would offer awards for outstanding achievement in the arts, sport, business or charity by those under 30. There are likely to be several grades of award depending on the achievement.

Mrs Bottomley said yesterday that the scheme, backed enthusiastically by John Major, would "promote and honour our achievements of our young". The Royal Family has also been involved in discussions.

Mrs Bottomley also an-



## Portillo appeals for party unity

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL PORTILLO yesterday appealed for Tory MPs to demonstrate "unity, unity and unity" to ensure that John Major wins the next general election.

The Defence Secretary, in a widely praised speech, said that only the Conservatives had the will to govern and the determination to win. "But I tell this conference: in order to win we need three extra policies — unity, unity and unity."

The speech, which was in contrast to his outburst against the European Union last year, reinforced Mr Portillo's reputation as a conference favourite and a future leadership contender. His performance delighted Major loyalists with its attack on Labour and robust defence of Government policies.

Britain was sure about its place in Europe, he said: "a proud and independent nation state". He condemned Labour's "sneering politics of envy". Mr Major's leadership over Bosnia and Iraq was contrasted with the untested Tony Blair: "True grit, not soft soap. Sound judgment, not soundbites." Mr Portillo defended the Union and mocked the Liberal Democrats, who, he said, would hand control of the armed forces to the EU.

While a Tory government

## RIDDELL ON POLITICS

fantasy of the economically illiterate. The public would anyway be dubious. Such demands ignore the state of the economy and of public finances. The recent strong growth in living standards and worries over inflation mean that the next move in fiscal and monetary policy should be a tightening, not a loosening. Moreover, while the "Green Budget" produced by the Institute for Fiscal Studies and Goldman Sachs is positive about the medium-term outlook for public borrowing, it warns against sizeable

tax cuts. That is because existing

public spending plans are already

very tight, involving much lower

rates of growth than have been

achieved for long in the past.

With the Cabinet's EDX com-

mittee on public spending about

to start intensive discussions

about next year's plans, Mr Clarke

was right to warn that the priori-

ties are to keep borrowing coming

down, ensure tight control of

spending and properly fund key

services, "only then, will I assess

the room for any tax cuts this

November". At a later fringe

meeting, William Waldegrave,

the Chief Secretary, warned that

"there are never any easy savings

and there is always plenty of

pressure to spend more". The

lower inflation rate permit some

reduction in expenditure totals,

but this is likely to be small

overall, allowing just some cos-

metic tax cuts.

Mr Clarke set far-reaching

goals for the next parliament: a

20p basic rate of income tax,

reducing and then abolishing

inheritance and capital gains tax,

keeping inflation below 2½ per

cent and getting and keeping

public spending below 40 per cent

of national income. He described

these as "guiding stars", but with

no timetable. Mr Waldegrave was

more ambitious in saying that

once spending had been reduced

below 40 per cent, "in due course

we should look further at a lower

target". That would permit real

reductions in the tax burden, as

opposed to pre-election ges-

tures. But it would require a funda-

mental review of spending plans —

switching some financing of

health, social security and educa-

tion to the private sector. None of

that is possible in a pre-election

period. Mr Clarke deserved his

applause, if only for his candour

and realism in emphasising the

limits on what can be achieved in

the short term.

PETER RIDDELL

## Cranborne warns Blair on reform

BY ALICE THOMSON  
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE LEADER of the House of Lords said yesterday that he was not opposed in principle to reform of the British constitution. But Viscount Cranborne gave warning that any changes to the upper chamber made by a Labour government would have to be matched by reform of the House of Commons.

In an article in *The Times* today and in a speech at the Tory conference in Bournemouth yesterday, Lord Cranborne said that both Houses could look antiquated if they did not adapt.

John Major made it clear earlier this year that he does not want to see any "tinkering" with the House of Lords and the constitution.

But Lord Cranborne says in *The Times*: "To suggest that we should preserve the constitution rather than English Heritage preserves a Grade I-listed monument would be unwise. Some people badly want to reform the Lords further. I am not opposed to this in principle."

He continues: "Any reform of the House of Lords will increase its authority at the expense of the House of Commons. You cannot consider the two houses separately. They are complementary and interdependent."

Viscount Cranborne, page 20



John Major joins the applause for Michael Heseltine — gesturing for a fifth term for the Tories — after his speech

## Heseltine rallies renegade Tories

BY GRAHAM DUFFIELD

MICHAEL HESELTINE rounded on Tory renegades yesterday, warning them that they would earn the party's "utter contempt" if they handed power to Labour. He also warned the Referendum Party, in a clear attack on Sir James Goldsmith, not to let Labour in.

The speech showed that the Deputy Prime Minister had lost none of his touch as a conference performer. It ended with him basking in applause and flourishing Churchillian V for victory signs.

Mr Heseltine questioned Sir James' motives for targeting his candidates in key Conservative constituencies. "What do you think you will gain by putting your candidates where it will hurt the Conservatives the most? Do you really want Labour to win? Have you counted the cost of the minimum wage of the social contract?"

"I say this to you. You're lucky. As you commute between the luxury of your hacienda in Mexico, your chateau in France and your palazzo in Venice, just remember the rest of us. We would have to suffer under them."

Conservative Party policy has previously been to deny that the Referendum Party would have any effect on its vote. But Mr Heseltine has

been increasingly angered at the prospect that the party of a millionaire financier who lives in Paris could cost the Conservatives some seats, if not the election. Mr Heseltine is himself a millionaire and as one insider said: "He felt that if anyone could attack Goldsmith and McAlpine [Lord McAlpine, the former Tory Party treasurer, who has defected to the Referendum Party] for using their wealth to avoid the consequences of their actions it was him."

But Mr Heseltine directed

most of his speech to attacking the Labour Party: "What a transformation! Old Labour — the barny army. New Labour — the smarmy army." Mr Heseltine mocked the Labour party for producing five key pledges in a five-day conference: "Five soundbites, and they think they're fit to govern for five years. No facts, no details, no costs. Soundbites substituted for substance. Public relations masquerading as policy."

However, in a policy announcement, the Deputy

Prime Minister echoed Mr Blair's promise that Labour would create a network of knowledge through computers for all schools.

Mr Heseltine said that the £300 million of lottery proceeds currently spent on projects for the millennium will be ploughed into a new information and communication technology fund. He promised a new range of computers in schools and access to information and training "of every sort to all who want it."

# Independent schools decry 'two faces' of Harman

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

**AN ADVERTISEMENT** showing a two-faced Harriet Harman is launching a campaign by independent schools against Opposition policies on education.

Friends of Independent Schools, whose membership has grown to 50,000 in two years, drew on a £300,000 fighting fund to take the advert in national newspapers. It was placed in the name of Parental Choice Matters, a cover name for the FIS which is run from the London offices of the Independent Schools Information Service (ISIS), the main promotional organisation for private schools.

The advert, echoing the Conservative ploy of distorting the faces of political opponents, shows the Shadow Social Security Secretary voicing her support for Labour plans from her left mouth and calling for "the proper choice for your child" from the right. Earlier this year she sent her son to a grant-maintained grammar school. The advertisement says: "We agree with the Harriet Harman on the right". It will appear in *The Times* tomorrow.

The main target of the campaign is the pledge by both Labour and the Liberal Democrats to abolish the assisted places scheme, a £120,000 government subsidy to help less well-off families to pay independent school fees. It also says that Labour threatens the schools' charitable status which, if removed, would force up fees.

Friends of Independent Schools said it was not simply saying "vote Conservative" at the general election and denied it was effectively an extension of the party. "We are not asking you to change your vote. We are asking you to help us to make new Labour and Lib Dem reconsider their policies on independent schools."

The Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference, which represents 250 independent schools, said earlier this month that its dialogue with Labour had achieved little.

Parents at 140 independent schools are asked to pay £3 to the pressure group every time they settle their annual school fees. Campaign decisions are made by the FIS full-time political officer and confirmed by a board, which includes head teachers, parents and school governors.

A spokesman for the Friends of Independent Schools said the advert was not intended as an attack on Ms Harman. "We are saying she made a courageous decision and we support her decision as a parent. We are saying the Labour Party cannot face both ways on this issue."

Labour said that neither the party nor Ms Harman was two-faced on its policies for independent schools.

A spokesman for David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, said: "We have said we will phase out the assisted places scheme in order to ensure 500,000 infants are in class of 30 or under."

## 'Rising costs lead to more expulsions'

By OUR EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

DIFFICULT pupils are increasingly likely to be expelled because schools cannot afford the amount of time and money they demand, a report published yesterday concluded.

Pupils were expelled for violent behaviour in just a quarter of cases and "concern for reputation and position in league tables" played a part in the spiralling number of expulsions, the report said.

The study, by the Institute of Education in London, disclosed that the number of pupils expelled each year has jumped from fewer than 3,000 in 1990-91 to more than 12,000 in 1994-95. Dr David Gillborn,

Conference report, pages 6, 7



Gypsy caravan: the Spanish dancer Joaquin Cortés, who blends flamenco with rock, leading his troupe yesterday at the Albert Hall, London, where his show runs until Sunday

## Bishops ask Pope to change Irish holidays into holy days

By AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Irish Roman Catholic Church has appealed to the Pope to move traditional Irish holy days to Sunday because many people are using the days for shopping rather than praying.

There are eight "holy days of obligation" in the Irish calendar on which schools and offices close so that people can go to Mass to celebrate the feast day.

However, the tradition has gradually fallen into disuse. The Irish Bishops' Conference has written to the Congregation for Divine Worship — the Vatican Body with

responsibility for feast days — proposing that Ireland should move its holy days in line with the rest of Europe and the United States.

The Church wants to move two "Holy Days of Obligation" from Thursday to Sunday. It is also seeking alterations to four more of the eight compulsory days of worship.

Willy Walsh, Bishop of Killaloe, Co Clare, said only half his congregation attended Mass on holy days. "Work practices have changed. It was very easy in the past when we were an agricultural

country to stop work on holy days and go to Mass. It has become very difficult for the working public to do that. Most factories want their workers on holy days."

"In the past it was socially unacceptable in Ireland to miss Mass. That is no longer the case," he added.

The bishops propose to move Ascension Day and Corpus Christi from Thursday to the following Sunday. St Patrick's Day on March 17 and Christmas Day on will remain obligatory Mass days, regardless of what day they fall on.

## Councillors damn £6bn canal for North with faint praise

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

A PLAN to spend £6 billion building a canal across the north of England was given short shrift yesterday by the first group of political leaders to study it.

The idea to link Carlisle with Newcastle upon Tyne was discussed only briefly by the executive of the North of England Assembly. It decided the proposal was worth noting but far less important than pressing on with its ten-year campaign to win money for building dual carriageways along three roads through the area.

The Western Water High

way scheme, devised by Derek Russell, a retired Manchester engineer, would carry ships of up to 15,000 tonnes through the Pennines. He believes it would provide up to 300,000 jobs and reduce pollution from traffic.

After the meeting, John McCormick, chairman of the assembly which represents councils throughout the North, said they were not making a judgment yet. "What we have done is reiterate what we see as our priorities for the region," he said. "Our other priorities concern the region's rail net-

work, improving public transport and an integrated transport system, which have been devastated by deregulation.

"This does not mean we are

against the Western Water

Highway, but we want the emphasis to be on the immediate problems which can be dealt with in the short-term before talking about something more grandiose and for the next century."

The project is due to be discussed by Cumbria County Council on October 24.

Leading article and Letters, page 21

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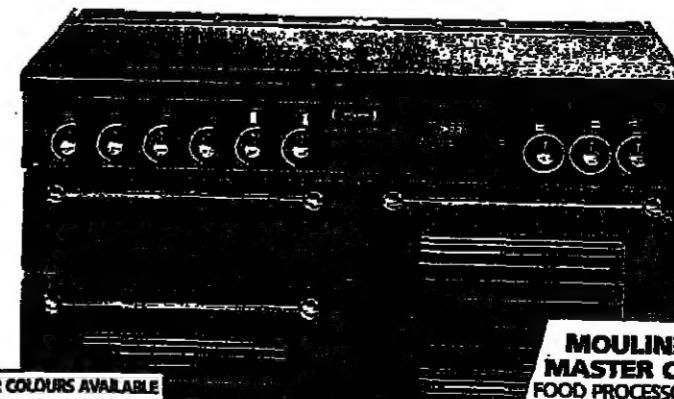
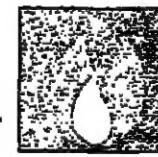
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<b>Liabilities</b>		
If I discontinue using my phone within the contract period, how much will I have to pay?	per month left	
If I choose to disconnect outside the contract period, what disconnection charge will be made?		
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What tariff package have I chosen?		
What is the minimum monthly charge?		
How many minutes of free calls does the package include?	minutes	
What units are my calls charged in?	seconds/minutes	
Does this apply to all types of call?	Yes	No
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What is the extra charge for itemised billing?	per month	

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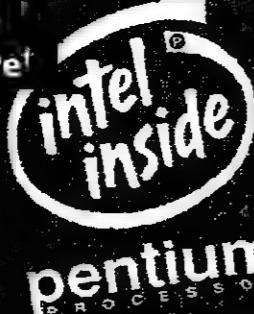


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INSIDE  
SECTION

2  
TODAY



## ECONOMICS

Anatole Kaletsky  
says exporters  
should pray now  
PAGE 29



## EDUCATION

A degree of  
strain for the  
student vets  
PAGE 35



## ARTS

After 28 years, the  
Rolling Stones  
circus hits town  
PAGE 37-40

TELEVISION  
AND  
RADIO  
PAGES  
46, 47

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY OCTOBER 11 1996

## Jardine Fleming dropped from Asia umbrella fund

By NOEL FUNG

**JARDINE FLEMING**, Hong Kong's oldest investment bank, has suffered a further humiliating blow after being dropped as a leading fund manager in a new unit trust launch.

The fund manager is being excluded from a new UK investment scheme after Imro, the fund managers' watchdog, found that one of its most senior traders was making secret deals to benefit himself and to

the detriment of clients. It was fined £700,000.

In addition, Jardine Fleming paid £12 million in compensation and sacked Colin Armstrong, the trader at the centre of the affair.

Now Portfolio Fund Management has made a last-minute change to drop Fleming's funds from its Asia umbrella fund, Portfolio Asia Fund.

After conducting extensive interviews with fund managers in Hong Kong and Singapore the house has decided to drop Fleming's funds.

Portfolio Asia Fund is a unit trust fund of funds aimed at offering investors access to most Asian markets outside Japan through investing in 25 funds from 13 leading groups in the region.

After paying visits to 29 fund managers in Hong Kong and 11 more in Singapore, Portfolio decided to take Flemings off the list.

The decision was taken despite the fact that the new fund will expose between 35 per cent to 45 per cent of its geographic weightings to

Hong Kong stocks. Jardine Fleming, a joint venture between the UK private merchant bank Robert Fleming and Jardine Matheson, is the largest fund house in the territory.

Richard Timberlake, Portfolio's investment director, said the decision was indirectly related to the rogue trading scandal. Colin Armstrong, a senior Jardine Fleming manager, was found to have conducted share transactions to benefit his own account, placing unit trust

holders at a disadvantage. "What he has done was pretty terrible and he was their [Jardine's] star fund manager," Mr Timberlake said.

"I am looking for institutions that have discipline and flair," he said.

He described the performance of Jardine Fleming's funds as "a little pedestrian" and said: "I decided to make room for people [whose performance] I have more confidence in."

The four fund houses which the new fund will have the largest

exposure to are Fidelity, Schroder, HSBC and Invesco, top management groups in Hong Kong after Jardine Fleming.

After taking Fleming off the list, Henry Cooke (Lloyd George) and Morgan Grenfell are added to the portfolio.

Last week, Jardine Fleming lost the lucrative mandate to manage £70 million of pension funds for Hong Kong Jockey Club, a powerful and prestigious organisation running horse races in the territory.

## NatWest buys Hambro Magan

By ROBERT MILLER

MORE than 100 senior City executives are set to become millionaires after the investment banking arm of NatWest yesterday acquired J.O. Hambro Magan, the highly successful corporate finance boutique.

NatWest Markets refused to disclose the cost of buying Hambro Magan but market analysts believe that a basic £20 million price could eventually reach £150 million after 120 staff of the combined operation were locked in by "golden handcuffs". Some of the new contracts are said to be worth as much as £2 million for the best performers.

George Magan, chairman of Hambro Magan, who will become chairman of the new operation when regulatory approval has been granted this month, said that the new pay packets for staff were based on a high degree of loyalty, "performance related compensation and a significant element of golden handcuffs on a person by person basis".

The 40-strong staff of Hambro Magan, which since it was founded in 1993 has advised on transactions with a total value of more than £18 billion, are already among the most well-rewarded corporate financiers and merger and acquisition specialists in the City. At the end of last year, the firm had net assets of around £1 million.

In order to make the loss of the independence they enjoyed as a relatively small boutique more palatable, senior staff at Hambro Magan will have had to be won over by generous renumeration packages and handoff arrangements that locked them into the new group for some time

to come. In the same vein, however, NatWest Markets has had to renegotiate or "make new arrangements" with its 80 key players.

Among the biggest deals that Hambro Magan has worked on are the £1.6 billion agreed takeover of Jaguar by Ford and the £1.8 billion hostile offer for Fisons by Rhone-Poulenc-Rorer. On the NatWest Markets side, there is the £361 million hostile bid defence of Amec by Kvaerner and the £870 million recommended offer for South Wales Electricity by Welsh Water. The most high-profile deal is as adviser to the Ministry of Defence on the £1.66 billion sale of married partners accommodation.

The NatWest Markets acquisition of Hambro Magan follows the purchase last November of Gleacher & Co, a leading US corporate finance house that has since been renamed Gleacher NatWest.

Eric Gleacher, chairman of the eponymous firm, who will become co-chairman of Global Corporate Advisory with Mr Magan, said yesterday that since the acquisition his company alone had generated up to \$100 million in revenue.

Among the leading transactions done by Gleacher NatWest are the British Airways proposed alliance with American Airlines and the \$14 billion merger of MFS with WorldCom.

Martin Owen, chief executive of NatWest Markets, who said that transactions for the first nine months of this year for the combined business were worth more than £32 billion, said: "Hambro Magan is widely recognised as one of the leading independent M&A (merger and acquisitions) advisers in the UK and represents a one-of-a-kind acquisition opportunity that will enhance our already powerful presence in corporate finance.

The combination of Hambro Magan with Gleacher NatWest and NatWest Markets will take our worldwide corporate advisory business to a new level."

Banking unions are expected to protest strongly at the generous new pay deals for a handful of top staff in the NatWest Group.



Magan: new chairman



Tony Gooda, the controversial former Lloyd's underwriter, was among the names to feature in a batch of 240 writs issued in the High Court

## Lloyd's names face flurry of writs

By JON ASHWORTH

LLOYD'S of London unleashed a volley of writs against non-paying names yesterday in the first step towards recovering £500 million in outstanding debts.

Tony Gooda, the controversial former Lloyd's underwriter, and Sir William Piggin-Brown, the former leading amateur jockey, are among

names to feature in a batch of 240 writs issued yesterday in the High Court in London. Sir William, a former Sixties playboy, now lives in South Africa.

Names who ignore demands for payment risk losing their homes and assets in the action, which is led by Dibb Lupton Alsop, the law firm acting for Lloyd's.

Mr Gooda, who introduced names to the ill-fated Gooda

Walker syndicates, is being sued for £1.67 million in money purportedly owed to Lloyd's. He is abroad on holiday and not available for comment.

Other leading Lloyd's personalities to be singled out include Robin Kingsley, chairman of the Lime Street Agency, who is being sued for £1.26 million. Mr Kingsley placed names on the loss-making

Feltrin and Gooda Walker syndicates. Sally Noel, who is campaigning on behalf of non-paying names, faces a demand for nearly £300,000.

She threatened to tear up her writ publicly yesterday, saying she feared the action could trigger a fresh round of suicides among distressed names. Mrs Noel claims the amounts on the writs have not been independently validated.

Controversially, the list also includes Rupert Galliers-Pratt, who was recently suspended by the Stock Exchange for failing to disclose his directorships of 17 failed companies.

Mr Galliers-Pratt, an old Etonian, is chairman of Optical Care (Bermuda), which floated on the Alternative Investment Market in the summer.

## Gas blow

The Gas Consumers Council has begun talks with Ofgas, the industry regulator, because of a doubling in the number of complaints about gas bills. In the last six months there were 12,800 complaints compared with 6,200 in the same period of 1995. Page 26

## Conran plan

Sir Terence Conran is planning a return to New York with a restaurant and furniture store in a new development to be built at the foot of the Queensboro Bridge. Page 31

## Zeneca plans to disclose US donations

By JASON NISSE

ZENECA, the pharmaceutical group, is considering changing its accounting policies to disclose fully donations to US political parties made through the company.

The move is in response to revelations in *The Times* that UK companies have given more than \$21 million to the Republican Party to help fund Bob Dole's fight against Bill Clinton for the presidency.

Institutional investors are to press for full disclosure of US donations in the same way that payments to UK political parties have to be disclosed.

Zenecca, which gave \$200,000 to US politicians last year, said it was actively considering how it should treat these payments.

B.P., which gave \$315,000, said that it felt the information was fully disclosed in statutory filings in the US, but if it received overwhelming requests to include this in its UK annual report, it would consider it.

## Inflation exceeds 2.5% target again

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE headline inflation rate was unchanged at 2.1 per cent in September but underlying inflation, targeted by the Government, rose disappointingly on the day that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, addressed the Conservative party conference.

Underlying inflation rose 2.9 per cent from 2.8 per cent in August and in each of the preceding three months, so moving further above the Government's aim of 2.5 per cent or less.

Many City economists argued that the latest figures virtually ruled out another cut in base rates.

The main culprits pushing inflation up in September were petrol prices and clothing and footwear prices, which jumped by 5.2 per cent, the biggest monthly rise since records began in 1947, according to the Office for National Statistics.

Statisticians said that there were price rises of between 10 and 30 per cent on many women's dresses and coats as

retailers pushed up prices on new autumn lines.

The headline rate held unchanged from August's level, partly because of some mortgage cuts in September, which offset higher house prices.

There was also a downward effect from seasonal food prices, which fell much more sharply this year than last, when prices stayed high because of the drought.

The 2.1 per cent headline rate in September is important because it is the figure that will be used to update pensions and many other state benefits such as sickness benefit. Last year, the September headline rate was 3.9 per cent.

Many other benefits — including child benefit and the new jobseeker's allowance — are uprated by the so-called Rossi index, which is the Retail Prices Index minus most housing costs.

The Rossi index stood at 2.6 per cent in September compared with 3.0 per cent last year.

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TIM 44

## BT pension fund backs Liberty launch

By MARIANNE CURPHEN

DONALD GORDON, the South African insurance magnate, is to compete head-on with the biggest names in the pensions industry by creating a major new life insurance company.

However, unlike other green field operations, the new company will have the advantage of starting with £1.5 billion worth of funds under management, thanks to a joint venture with the British Telecom Pension Scheme (BTPS).

In return, BTPS will take a 10 per cent stake in the new company, and BTPS's 100 per cent-owned subsidiary, the fund manager Hermes, will act as the fund manager for HLIPL.

Mr Gordon, a player in the insurance industry for 40 years, predicted

that pensions would be the "fastest-growing sector in the world". Mr Gordon hopes to attract business from individuals through a direct telephone operation based in Peterborough. Initially, however, the emphasis will be on winning contracts from companies to manage their employee pension schemes.

HLIPL, which plans to launch next spring, will offer a UK index tracking fund and an actively enhanced UK index fund.

Mr Gordon said that pension products would be sold through Liberty International's shopping centre network, which has

# Mannesmann sells £223m stake in TI Group

By KEITH RODGERS

ALMOST 9 per cent of the shares in TI Group, the engineering concern, changed hands yesterday as Germany's Mannesmann sold its stake to free funds for its own expansion in the telecommunications market.

Mannesmann, the engineering group, placed 42.1 million shares through UBS. Cazenove and SBC

Warburg at a price of 532p, against an opening price of 564½p. The shares were widely distributed, and the price, which initially fell 9p, closed the day at 550½p.

The deal raised about £223 million for Mannesmann, which first bought a 5 per cent stake in TI for £41.3 million in September 1989. It subsequently increased the holding to 8.86 per cent. The size of the stake had led to

repeated speculation about a full takeover bid. The two groups originally came together when TI, which owned Bundy International, the fluid-carrying systems group, bought Mannesmann's minority stake in Bundy Germany. Although both companies said yesterday that they had enjoyed a healthy relationship, there were no joint ventures between them and in recent years their stra-

tegic aims have diversified. While TI bought its way into the aerospace industry and polymers, Mannesmann has focused on the highly competitive telecoms arena, and considered the TI investment to be non-core.

One analyst said Mannesmann may launch a rights issue in the second half of next year to fund its continuing telecoms investment. In London, analysts were largely un-

moved by the share placement, with several arguing that the TI price remains fair. One suggested that the real surprise was that Mannesmann had not made the disposal earlier.

The three brokers, led by UBS as prime adviser, earned £2.1 million between them after buying the shares at 527p. Earlier this week, TI made a formal offer for Forshed, the quoted Swedish maker of polymer seals.

PETER TREVOR

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Watchdog seeks TNT shares buyer

AUSTRALIA'S Federal Court has granted the watchdog Australian Securities Commission a freeze on some proceeds from alleged insider dealing in shares of TNT, the transport company, ahead of a surprise A\$2 billion (£1 billion) takeover bid by KPN. The ASC has stepped up efforts to trace Mark Booth, believed to be a Briton, who is understood to have ordered the options in TNT by telephone and paid A\$87,500 in untraceable bank cheques for the TNT options.

Yesterday the court lifted a freeze on profits of A\$0.2 million made by two Australian firms trading in TNT options just ahead of the KPN bid. It agreed to continue a freeze on profits made by Mr Booth. The Australian Taxation Office is also monitoring attempts to locate him. TNT shares were trading at about A\$1.56 each when he bought call options over 5 million at an exercise price of A\$2. The shares are now trading at A\$2.41, just below KPN's offer price of A\$2.45.

### Imro clears unit trusts

THE unit trust industry has been given a mostly clean bill of health by Imro, the City watchdog, after a review prompted by the Morgan Grenfell scandal. The Investment Management Regulatory Organisation made inspection visits to a number of fund management firms as part of a review of unquoted securities. Imro said the visits confirmed firms hold "minimal... if indeed any" holdings in unquoted securities. In a "small number" of cases, improvements could be made to control processes and the "clarity" of the disclosure of unquoted securities.

### Leeson boss sues bank

A FORMER boss of Nick Leeson, the jailed trader, is taking Barings Bank to an industrial tribunal, claiming £500,000 in unpaid bonuses. American-born Mary Walz claims the merchant bank is in breach of its contract for refusing her claim to the massive payout when she was sacked last year. Currently jobless, Ms Walz was global head of equity financial products and one of 21 top managers dismissed after the bank's rescue by ING. She says other staff got their bonuses while the 21 sacked executives did not receive their share.

### Record profits for GE

AMERICA'S General Electric Co saw third-quarter profits rise 11 per cent to a record \$1.78 billion. Revenues grew 16 per cent to a record \$30 billion (\$17.3 billion), helped by income from the Olympics televised by its NBC television network as well as greater global activities and higher sales of spare parts and services. The GE Capital Services subsidiary lifted earnings 15 per cent to \$36 million. NBC broadcast the Atlanta Olympics to a US audience of 209 million. It expects strong ratings for its new autumn schedule.

### Red phone box deal

BT reached an out-of-court settlement yesterday with New World Payphones (NWP), its biggest phone box rival, over the old-style red K2 and K6 phone boxes. BT obtained a temporary injunction this summer preventing NWP from using the traditional red phone box in conservation areas. The injunction was dropped after yesterday's agreement. Precise terms are confidential, but BT will make sites available to NWP, where BT's modern kiosk is already installed. BT has the sole right to install the old phone box.

### Easynet in talks

EASYNET, the AIM-listed Internet access provider, is in talks with UK Online, one of its rivals, with a view to a possible merger. Easynet said the talks reflect the growing consolidation in the Internet industry. UK Online is 77 per cent owned by Olivetti. The other shareholders are Herman Houser, who designed the BBC Microcomputer, and Tim King, his associate. Both companies connect users to the Internet. Easynet says it has now attracted a subscriber base of 10,000 while UK Online is understood to have signed around 3,500 users.

### Skypharma drug rights

SKYEPHARMA, the pharmaceuticals company, paid \$1 million yesterday to acquire the American rights to six asthma and painkiller compounds from Genta-Jago Technologies, a drugs development venture it jointly owns. The compounds were described as "the pick of the bunch" of the 63 in Genta-Jago's portfolio. Skypharma reported a pre-tax loss of \$6 million in the year to July 31, against a loss of £10 million previously. Analysts expect the company to become profitable in 1998. The shares closed at 75½p, up 1½p.

### Brooks Service ahead

BROOKS SERVICE, the textile rental company and retailer, is raising £600,000 through a private placing to fund last month's £385,000 acquisition of Hillside Services. The announcement came as the company returned record interim results, buoyed by a 53 per cent rise in operating profits from its workwear division. Pre-tax profits were £243,000 (£177,000) in the 26 weeks to June 30. Earnings were 1.35p a share (0.99p) and an interim dividend of 1.2p (1p) is payable on November 22.

### BT and Viag on track

BRITISH TELECOM and Viag, a German utility, are to proceed with plans to launch a competing telecoms service to Deutsche Telekom in spite of the loss on Wednesday of RWE, another German utility, from their alliance. BT and Viag will bid for the country's fourth mobile-phone licence and want another partner. Georg Obermeier, Viag's chairman, said the goal of BT and Viag is to win 20 per cent of the German mobile-phone market and 7 per cent of fixed network services. He said the partnership would break even in five years.

## Gas billing fiasco adds up to double complaints

By OLIVER AUGUST

THE Gas Consumers Council (GCC) has begun talks with Ofgas, the industry regulator, in an attempt to end the gas bills fiasco, which has seen the number of complaints double in the last six months, to 12,800.

There were 6,200 complaints in the same period in 1995, the breakdown in the British Gas billing system being blamed for the unprecedented increase.

A further failing of the system emerged yesterday, when it was revealed that hundreds of customers in the South West received letters from a debt collecting agency this week demanding payment for bills that had not been received. Last week, around 100 customers were hit by a bungle that led to them being billed for £10.7 million each.

The billing chaos started two weeks ago, when British Gas was forced to suspend disconnections after thousands of customers were sent

red final warnings before having received their bills. Some had even received disconnection notices.

British Gas was forced to guarantee that nobody would be disconnected for non-payment until the end of next month even though the company originally believed the problem was limited to Leeds and East Anglia.

By that time, it hoped that the "leaking problems" caused by the introduction of a £150 million computerised billing network would be solved.

However, the GCC is so concerned about the system's inadequacies, which could affect all 18 million domestic gas customers, that it started urgent consultations with Ofgas. Ian Powe, the GCC director, said: "We have asked Ofgas to tell us what action they intend to take against British Gas over the serious failures in its billing system. British Gas put a prototype into production before it was fully tested."

"That is worrying enough but to have done so without the normal safeguard of quality control is a risk public accusations of incompetence at a time when the company must maintain market share to a reasonable level," he said.

A spokesman for British Gas admitted that the latest billing problems were caused by the new computer system, adding: "In a very short space of time, we have had to get this enormous billing system in place. This is a monster-sized computer system — the biggest of its kind in the world."

Nigel Griffiths, shadow consumer minister, said that Ofgas had ignored his warning that complaints would increase if no action was taken. He called on the regulator to put the consumer first.

Pennington, page 27  
Business Letters, page 29

### TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	1.25	1.26
Austria Sch	11.25	11.22
Belgium Fr	52.22	47.92
Canada \$	2.224	2.064
Cyprian Cyp.	0.785	0.785
Danish Kr	5.70	5.60
Finland Mak	7.72	7.07
France Fr	8.48	7.85
Germany Dm	2.05	2.05
Greece Dr	1.95	1.95
Hong Kong \$	12.75	11.75
Iceland Ikr	1.15	1.05
Ireland P	1.03	0.95
Italy Lira	5.25	5.25
Japan Yen	248.95	234.00
Malta	0.807	0.752
New Zealand \$	2.41	2.19
Norway Kr	10.72	9.85
Portugal Esc	255.00	234.50
Spain Pte	807.50	744.50
Sweden Kr	10.95	10.15
Switzerland Fr	2.05	1.95
USA \$	149.00	141.00
UK £	1.684	1.534

Rates for small denomination bank notes only supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



High point: Alan Sugar, the Spurs chairman, who is ready to go into the red in the team's quest for fresh signings

### Sugar ready to emulate Premiership big-spenders

By JASON NISSE

ALAN SUGAR, the chairman of Tottenham Hotspur, said yesterday that he was willing to allow Gerry Francis, the club's team manager, to spend substantial amounts on new players, even if it means the company goes into the red.

At the same time he attacked the spiralling payments for players, and singled out Newcastle United, which is currently mulling over a float, for paying £15 million for Alan Shearer, the England captain. "I might be missing the plot here," said Mr Sugar, "but I don't have the faintest idea how Newcastle are funding their purchases."

Sugar has cash balances of £12.2 million and Mr Sugar said that the company was willing to use its banking resources to fund purchases. Spurs took a massive writedown on its player valuations, reducing them by over 40 per cent. It also changed its year-end from 31 May to 31 July, but the pro forma profits for the 12 months to 31 May, ignoring the writedown, more than doubled to £11.9 million. These figures were boosted by a new shirt sponsorship deal and a profit of £4.6 million on player sales, notably Nicky Barmby for £25 million.

Both the slight easing in the pace of sales growth, and evidence that consumers are still balking at paying higher prices, offered some potentially comforting news on inflation in coming months. The survey showed that clothing shops reported a slowdown in sales after three strong months. Given yesterday's September retail price figures, which showed the biggest monthly price increase in clothing and footwear since the statistical series began in 1947, this suggests that, in spite of talk of a booming consumer sector, consumers remain price-sensitive.

A hallmark of this economic recovery has been that, whenever retailers tried to raise margins, consumers to some extent staged a boycott. If this relationship remains valid, this should help to keep a lid on retail prices.

Retailers said that they regarded their business as above average for the time of year but this was still at a lesser extent than expected.

On the positive side, Mr

Eperon noted that orders placed with suppliers rose at the same rate as in July, which had been the sharpest rate of increase since July 1988. Another sign of buoyancy was the fact that the balance of retailers indicating more than adequate stocks relative to expected sales was the lowest recorded since the survey began in 1983.

The CBI said that all types of shops — apart from off-licences — saw a rise in sales last month compared with last year. Chemists reported the strongest rise in sales since December 1992 after August's sharp slowdown.

The sectors most closely linked to the housing market thrived, with strong growth in sales of hardware, china and DIY, furniture and carpets.

### High street sales growth continues at slower rate

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

### United fights BA-AA link

UNITED AIRLINES has asked the US Department of Transportation to investigate formally the proposed link-up between British Airways and American Airlines (Jon Ashworth writes).

United maintains that the interests of American consumers, airports, carriers, and airline industry employees are being shortchanged in the review being conducted by the United Kingdom and the European Commission (EC).

Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, is assessing whether to propose the link-up to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC). The EC is studying the implications of various alliances involving European carriers.

Shares in Hélène, the struggling clothing-supply company, were suspended at 7p yesterday as the company announced it had entered into an agreement with Dyckhoff, a German department store company controlled by Mr Tillman. Hélène said the proposed deal, estimated at £30 million, is subject to due diligence and a further announcement would be made "as soon as practicable".

Hélène made an £8.7 million loss before tax last year, compared to a £6.13 million profit the year before, and did not pay a final dividend. In June it sold its Just Jamie and Reggie tailored women's wear and outerwear businesses to management.

Honoribit was floated in 1987 but after a series of ambitious acquisitions, collapsed in 1990 with debts of £11 million. The DTI sought to have Mr Tillman disqualified as a director after the collapse, but in August the High Court found in his favour.

### Tillman plans return with reverse takeover

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

BY CLARE STEWART

SHARES of J Sainsbury, the supermarket group, hit their lowest level this year after a leading broker cut its profit forecast for the retailer and around 2 per cent of its shares changed hands following a large placing.

At their lowest point the shares fell 11p, to 355p, sliding below its previous low of 357p this year. Earlier in the day the 30 million shares were placed at 344p and sold on through SBC Warburg, the Sainsbury broker, at 347p.

Although it was strongly rumoured that the shares had been placed by a member of the Sainsbury family, who hold 40 per cent of the group, the retailer denied this and added that the placing had

been made by an institutional investor.

The biggest impact on the price came after a leading sector analyst cut his profit forecasts for the group and downgraded his recommendation from "hold" to "reduce".

Tony MacNeary, of NatWest Markets, has cut his forecast for 1996-97 pre-tax profits to £725 million, down from £750 million, while for 1997-98 his estimate has dropped from £828 million to £794 million.

He also feels that the company, whose chairman and chief executive is David Sainsbury, has not done enough to regain some of the ground taken by rivals such as



Sainsbury: 'lagging behind'

### Sainsbury shares hit new low

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Uncertainties facing British Gas  Liberty targets money-purchase schemes  Yorkshire boss's Bournemouth shocker

IT IS hard to imagine how things could get worse for British Gas, but on the evidence so far debt collectors around to households blameless of any crime save wanting to buy their gas elsewhere might seem comical. Likewise the arrival on various doorsteps of bills for £10.7 million each might merely be a clever way out of the company's difficulties with ruinous North Sea take-or-pay contracts.

But both are part of seemingly endless public relations disasters that have distracted attention from the really important issue for British Gas, next spring's demerger into a pipelines, exploration and production business and the supply, retail and service side that most of us deal with. Because the first, dubbed TransCo International, so far because no one can agree on names, is the successor company, there is no need to issue a prospectus. Probably as well, because one would make curious reading. The Monopolies and Mergers Commission will not have ended its inquiry into the rather crucial matter of how much the company can charge for use of the pipelines.

That is uncertainty one. The other business, for which a full prospectus will have to be prepared, faces another two, or just conceivably three. On the suppo-

sition, highly speculative, that the billing chaos gets much worse, British Gas Energy could one day have difficulty saying how much is owed by customers. Not likely, say insiders. There is also a largely overlooked pricing review into supply, with Clare Spottiswoode, the regulator, expected to announce her first shot shortly. This could go to the MMC as well. Bet against it.

The third uncertainty is those take-or-pay contracts, and this will not go away before the spring. On one analysis, if these are fully enforced the company is bust, a view expressed some time back by the regulator. Directors who sign off the prospectus will have to confirm BG's continuing viability, but don't expect too much detail.

All these uncertainties are giving rise to a body of opinion that demerger should be delayed, a view expressed even within the boardroom, according to reports. Not true, say insiders. It would be an enormous climb-down, but it would not be unthinkable.

But it might not be necessary. Assume, and it is a big assump-

tion, there is the management time to carry out the huge amount of necessary paperwork. Two companies will be quoted come the spring but shareholders, because of the above uncertainties, will find it difficult to assess their true worth. Too bad. Analysts may have to work a little harder, rather than having it all handed to them on a plate. But Eurotunnel investors have been there for months, holding shares in a company it was impossible, until this week, to value rationally. British Gas shareholders may have to take the same long view. But it would not be the end of the world.

#### Proud parents: big infant

"A NEW child born the size of a colossus" is how Alastair Ross Goobey, chief executive of Hermes, describes the new insurance company he has created with the help of Liberty International. Well not quite. Beside the gargantuan Prudential, with £8.5 billion of gross annual premium income, Hermes Li-

berty International Pensions (HILP) still looks a tiddler. Its only client at present is the BT Pension Scheme, and with no new premium income coming in and the usual business start-up costs, HILP is unlikely to make a profit in its first year.

Still, few new companies begin life with such a comforting wad of money already in the coffers, and Donald Gordon, Liberty's chairman, has enough experience of the industry to know the scale of the competition he faces.

HILP is chasing business from company pension schemes, some of which are run by in-house fund managers while others have been broken up or closed down and are farmed out to be managed by the mightiest names

in the City, including names such as BZW and MAM.

Faced with demographic changes and rising costs, trustees of corporate schemes are increasingly opting for new-style money-purchase pension schemes. Unlike the old-style final salary schemes, where the final pension was linked to earnings, these schemes are dependent on how wisely an employee's contributions have been invested and how the fund has performed.

Not all the traditional pension providers can offer these newer schemes, and it is this gap in the market which HILP is hoping to fill. Some of the merchant banks have spotted it too, and have taken steps to create their own new life insurance arms.

The deal makes sense for both Hermes and Liberty. Hermes can offer pooled index-tracking and actively managed funds to Liberty, which in turn can provide the administrative backing that pensions business requires.

The joint venture has also thrown up opportunities for fund managers to look after property, cash and active global equity

portfolios for Liberty's existing pensions arm. Among those tipped are Fidelity and MAM. Expect news within weeks.

#### The morning after

FUNNY places, party conferences and many a career has been blighted by an unguarded comment. It is normally aspiring politicians who read reports of their deeds with horror the next morning, but the latest to suffer is Malcolm Chatwin, chief executive of Yorkshire Electricity.

At a fringe meeting in Bournemouth to talk about utilities regulation, Mr Chatwin livened up a dull evening, and who wouldn't be tempted to, with an assessment of how much his company was worth, according to a wire service report the next morning. Callers offering nine quid or more would not be wasting their time, he said with a sly wink. He then stripped to his underpants and said he would be voting for the Referendum Party. Actually, I made the last bit up. The first bit, about offers of

£9 or more, the wire service made up, according to Yorkshire's shocked spokesman the next day. Of course, publicly hawking your company around the place is both undignified and against any number of boring Stock Exchange rules.

But directors are required to get the highest price for shareholders, and Yorkshire's might be glad to see upwards of £9, especially since plans for a £120 million special payout fell foul of the Inland Revenue. Perhaps Mr Chatwin should not be quite so embarrassed about the suggestion.

#### Fringe banking

HERE is a serious business proposition. The Pennington Investment Bank, operating from a small rock in the Gulf of Panama, would like to look after your money for you. Forget all the regulatory bureaucracy, and don't worry about the Medellin cocaine cartel a few miles away — we're on the Internet, we're talking the cutting edge of high-tech finance here. The Bank of England has just had to warn investors about a similar scheme. This is based in Antigua, an odd place to do business although it seems to appeal to the Chechen mafia. And how much silly money is already winging its way to the Caribbean?

## Boots set to make strides beyond UK

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

BOOTS is to expand its retailing business beyond Britain's shores and plans to spend £30 million over the next 18 months opening branches in The Netherlands, Thailand and Japan.

Lord Blyth, deputy chairman and chief executive of Boots, yesterday signed an agreement to set up a joint venture with the Minor Group, a Thai conglomerate, to open five Boots stores by the summer of next year. Four will be in the Bangkok area and one in Pattaya.

Maryn Bell, previously merchandise and marketing director of Halfords, Boots's retail subsidiary, will be managing director of the partnership.

Three stores will open in The Netherlands next summer. Eva, a Dutch healthcare provider, will supply in-store pharmacy services, by-passing Dutch restrictions on corporations owning pharmacies. Boots will handle the rest of the retailing side. The Dutch operation will be managed by Peter Stone, previously director of store planning for Boots the Chemists.

No details were given about plans for Japan, though an announcement would be made "shortly". A similarly

small number of stores are expected to open there. All the overseas stores will be run on a trial basis and for an indefinite period.

Lord Blyth said that the company's approach would be "prudent, gradual and long-term". He added: "We have undertaken an exhaustive review and identified three countries which we believe offer good prospects for Boots stores. The purpose of opening these pilot stores is to carry out a thorough evaluation of the commercial opportunities and operational issues before considering the scope for further investment in these countries or elsewhere."

The company said that the Thai and Dutch Boots stores would closely resemble the British model. Merchandise will include international brands, local products and Boots own brands.

Boots pulled out of unsatisfactory overseas retailing operations in New Zealand, Canada and France several years ago. Like many other UK retailers, Boots began to look overseas again because it perceived that there was a relative lack of opportunities in the home market.

Tempus, page 28

### Shell plans polyethylene joint venture

### Etam opts for £5m revamp

ETAM, the women's fashion retailer, is to spend up to £5 million revamping its stores and will launch an extensive advertising campaign in an attempt to stem its losses, which at the half year reached £5.76 million (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Shell has signed a non-binding letter of intent to form a 50/50 joint venture combining Rhématique Olefinwerke Wesseling and BASF's polyethylene activities. It said that the venture would take over Montell's assets in France and the UK and would have polyethylene capacity of 1.4 million tonnes per annum.

The joint venture will be subject to regulatory approval and is intended to improve Shell and BASF's competitive position in polyethylene, which is used in plastic bags and extrusion products.

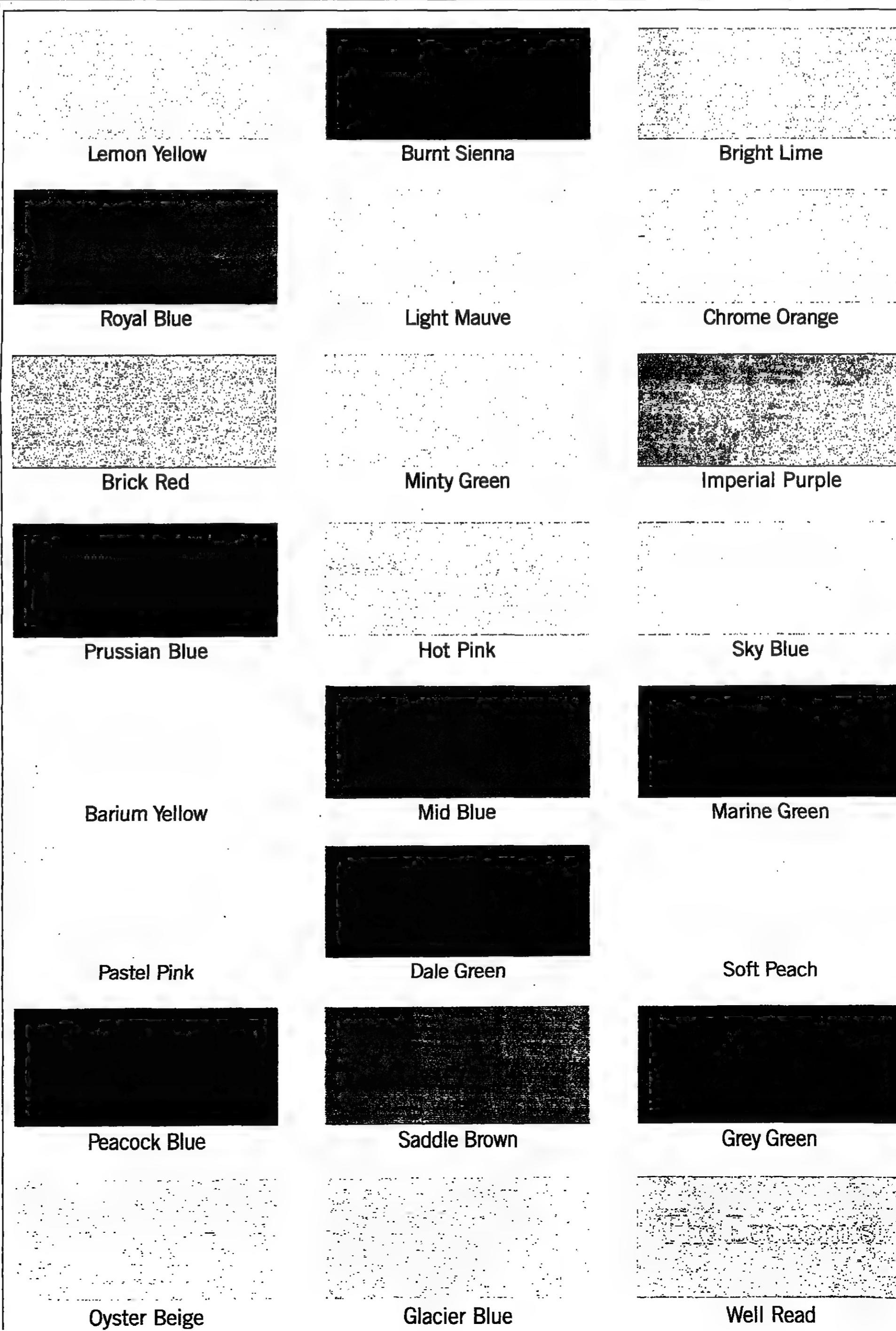
### N Brown pulls ahead

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

N BROWN, the catalogue retailing company that specialises in larger sized clothing, unveiled a sparkling set of interim results yesterday, sending its shares 5 per cent higher to 42p.

The company, chaired by Sir David Alliance, which last year failed in a bid to take over Littlewoods, said that a lack of major targets meant that it would concentrate on organic growth and acquisitions of smaller mail order companies.

However, Jim Martin, chief executive, said that were the Littlewoods family ever to decide to sell up, N Brown



STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

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# Inflation worries send shares below 4,000 level

SHARE prices dipped back below the 4,000 level and government securities suffered falls of up to £1 as the spectre of higher inflation came back to haunt investors.

An unexpected half-point rise in inflation during September and further suggestions that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, might decide to tighten monetary policy caught investors on the hop.

At one stage, the FT-SE 100 index was 28 points lower as the Dow Jones industrial average opened with double-figure falls. But it halved these losses by the close, ending 14.6 points down at 3,994.7.

The appearance of several large lines of stock boosted the total number of shares traded to 915 million. General selling pressure proved minimal.

J Sainsbury suffered a double whammy, with the price falling 8½ p to 355½ p after a large chunk of the shares changed hands and one broker followed it up with a profits downgrade.

SBC Warburg, the broker, placed a line of 30 million shares, or almost 2 per cent of the company, with various clients at 347½. By the close of business 58 million Sainsbury shares had changed hands, suggesting that not all of them had been taken up. The finger of suspicion immediately fell on the Sainsbury family as the seller of the stock, but the company was quick to deny such suggestions.

A short while later NatWest Securities, the broker, cut its forecast by £25 million to £725 million and reduced its recommendation from a "hold" to "reduce". It was joined by Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, which says the shares are a "sell".

The market also had to digest a large line of stock in TI Group as Mannesmann, its biggest shareholder, decided to unload its near 9 per cent holding. SBC Warburg also had a hand in this placing alongside Cazenove and UBS. Between them they disposed of 42 million shares at 532½ p on behalf of the German engineering group. The sale has raised a total of £223 million. The original 5 per cent stake was bought in 1989 for about £40 million. Mannesmann said it continued to have every confidence in the management. TI finished the session 8p cheaper at 556½ p as 111 million shares were traded.

There were a few bright



John Carter, of Commercial Union, saw the shares rise

spots. Commercial Union, of which John Carter is chief executive, climbed 19p to 645p as no less than four brokers came out with positive comments on the company. Cazenove, Goldman Sachs, BZW and Lehman Brothers have all rated the shares a "buy". BZW says the shares could be worth up to 800p each. Speculators have been

half-year figures from N Brown, the mail order retailer, with the price climbing 22p to 42p. In the first six months pre-tax profits grew from £12.5 million to £16 million, with brokers forecasting about £36 million for the full year.

Speculative buying continued to drive Leigh Interest, the waste disposal group, higher with the price adding 21p to 120p, just a couple of pence short of the year's high. There has been talk about a possible bid from Severn Trent, unchanged at 602½ p.

BTG hit a new high with a rise of 175p to £25.62 after given a presentation to brokers to discuss its joint venture with Ford Torotrak. Brokers came away impressed with what they heard.

Reduced losses from SleyPharma at the interim stage were given a cautious welcome by brokers as the price firmed 11p to 75½ p. The deficit was £6 million compared with almost £10 million last year.

Lavendon got off to a confident start in first-time trading. Shares in the group, which supplies powered access equipment used to replace scaffolding, were placed at 140p and started life at 145p. After touching a high for the day of 149½ p, they settled at 147½ p, a premium of 7½ p.

Shares of Richards Group were suspended at 8½ p pending clarification of the company's financial position.

□ GILT-EDGED: The latest inflation numbers focused investors' attention back on the uncertain outlook for interest rates as the market's recent strong run hit the buffers.

Losses of up to 1½ were recorded at the ultra long end of the market, with setbacks for other European markets only exacerbating the situation.

In the futures pit, the December series of the Long Gilt retreated ½% to finish at £110½ as a total of 97,000 contracts were completed. In longs, 8 per cent 2015 lost 2½ as at £101½, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £1½ worse off at £104½.

□ NEW YORK: Wall Street stocks were little changed at mid-session after rebounding from morning sell-offs triggered by stronger than expected labour data. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 6.71 points to 5,923.91.

Kelvin Industries tumbled 105p to 355p in response to another profits warning sneaked out after the market closed on Wednesday. It succeeded in wiping £3.2 million from the group's stock market value of £14.1 million. Profits for the full year are expected to be significantly below last year's £3.1 million.

Waiting for CU to follow the lead of Sun Alliance and Royal Insurance and merge with another of the composites.

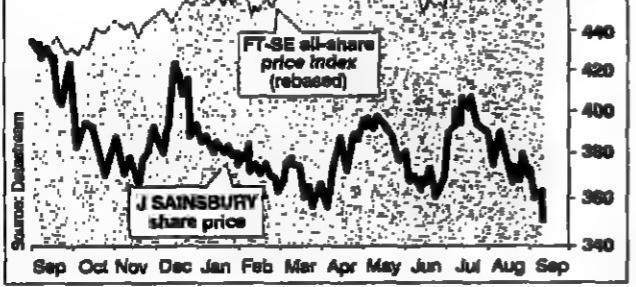
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Blacks Leisure continued to benefit from this week's profits upgrade from MeesPierson with a rise of 9p to 282½ p. The market gave the thumbs up to

the £1.5m profit forecast for 1995.

□ J SAINSBURY: Shares languished at year's low



Source: Datamonitor

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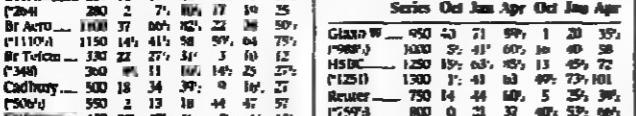
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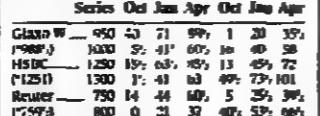
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The market also had to digest a large line of stock in TI Group



### Initial thoughts on new Labour

ALASTAIR Ross Goobey, chief executive of Hermes Investment Management, was in ebullient mood as he opened the press conference to announce a new force in the UK pensions industry. Recalling his past attendances at Conservative party conferences as special adviser to the Chancellor during the late eighties and early nineties, he said: "This day ten years ago I was walking down the hill towards the conference centre with Nigel Lawson. I was working for him at the time and he was about to make his speech. Five years ago I was with Norman Lamont when I was working for him, and he was about to make his 'green shoots' speech. The only initials NL these days are new Labour, so I'm here instead."

### Lens lament

A TOUCH of vanity yesterday from the ever so dapper Donald Gordon, chairman of Liberty International Holdings, as he delivered details of the deal with Hermes. Halfway through the speech, Gordon stopped, sighed and reached for his spectacles. "I am afraid I am going to have to use my glasses after all," he said, to ripples of laughter. Turning to press photographers, he sighed: "But I wish they wouldn't photograph me."

**IN AN attempt to bring in the buck before the opening of the extension to the Jubilee Line, Railtrack is renting out storage space under London Bridge Station for themed parties. At £70 per head for a three-course meal or £55 per head for sparkling wine and canapes, partygoers can celebrate the Christmas season with Arabian musicians, a belly dancer, sand dancers, and a palm reader.**



**Hole of the wall**  
HAVING failed to break open an automatic cash dispenser, even with the aid of an earth-moving mechanical digger, thieves in Estrees-Saint Denis, France, brought down the wall in which the cash box was set, and fled.

### Good account

THE best looking, if not the most expensive, annual report has landed. It's a children's picture book by Adaptec, the Californian technology company, that tells the story of Molly, Wally, and their dog Data. Entitled *ABC'D* (*All About Being Connected to Data*), the plot is a little complicated, but the colour pictures are great.

### Right place

WHERE did John Major choose to celebrate his star turn at the Conservative party conference on Wednesday evening? After stripping down to his shirt sleeves during questions on the platform at Bournemouth, the Prime Minister and his wife set off for their reward — fish and chips *à deux* at Harry Ramsden's, a favourite of Arthur Scargill and Neil Kinnock. Fellow diners gave the couple a standing ovation.

MORAG PRESTON

### ECONOMIC VIEW



ANATOLE KALETSKY

# Exporters should start their prayers before sterling soars

Britain's next Chancellor could be lulled into a false sense of security

**A**re the good times already over? Yesterday Kenneth Clarke told the Tories in Bournemouth that the British economy is "in its best condition ever in its lifetime", that "ours is the modern, enterprise model that others follow" and that John Major's Government had finally discovered "the recipe for national success". But with all due respect to the Chancellor, who has shown himself an able and generally honest steward of the nation's affairs, the last few items of objective information about the economy could hardly be called good news.

Yesterday we saw underlying inflation accelerating, albeit slightly. Last week, we had grim figures on manufacturing output which suggest that Britain's exporters are suffering not only from the weakness of the European economy but also from the recent recovery of the pound.

Last Friday there was the Bank of England's open demand for an increase in interest rates. There was more bad news on Wednesday in the annual Green Budget published by the Institute for Fiscal Studies and Goldman Sachs. This showed that even the "modest" £2 billion to £3 billion of tax cuts expected from Mr Clarke would make Britain's long-term predicament considerably worse.

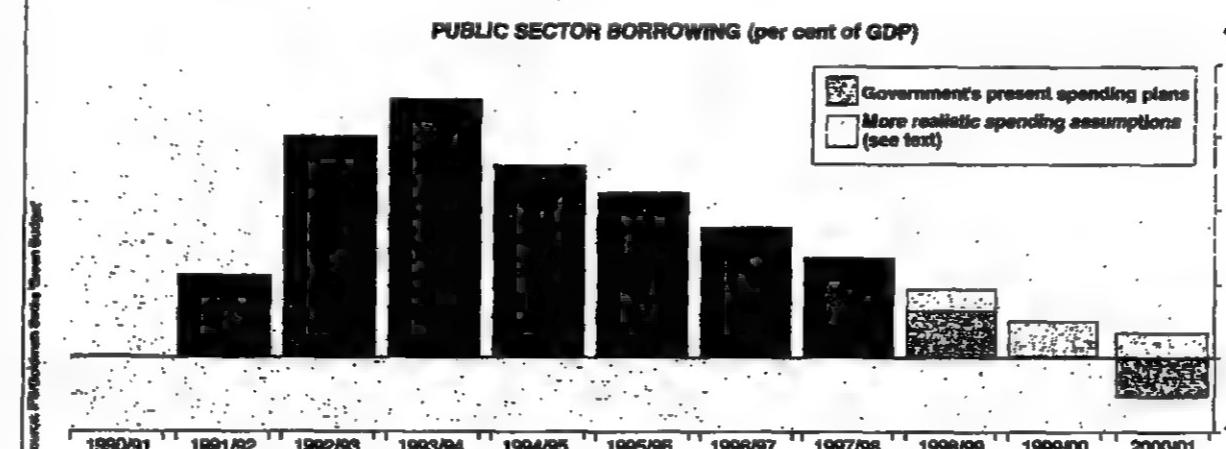
But the worst news of all comes from the place that is the burial ground for the reputations of British Chancellors — the foreign exchange market. Mr Clarke is only the second Chancellor since 1964 not to have had his policies ruined by a currency crisis (the other was Roy Jenkins). Judging by sterling's recent performance, however, the next Government, whether its political stripe, could face a major problem with sterling — and it will be a problem that can partly be blamed on the tax cuts and public spending plans likely to be announced by Mr Clarke.

The problem I refer to is, of course, that the pound will be too strong. Regular readers of these columns will need no reminding that overly strong currencies have done far more economic damage over the years than unduly weak ones — not only was this true in Britain in the early 1980s and again in the ERM period, but also in America, Japan and most recently Germany and France.

The danger Britain now is that sterling may be about to break out above the key "technical" level of £1 to DM2.40. This is an important resistance level in the charts used by most currency speculators and traders. In itself, it may seem no disaster. The trouble is that if the pound reaches DM2.50 before the general election, it could take off like a



...WHEN THE NEXT GOVERNMENT MISSES ITS FISCAL TARGETS?



rocket after a stable new government is formed.

What makes the prospect of an over-strong pound more than just a whimsical notion is the new mix of monetary and fiscal policies that the next British government is almost certain to adopt. Regardless of whether the next Prime Minister is Tony Blair or John Major, the next Chancellor is likely to find six Treasury briefing notes at the top of his in-tray when he sits down at his desk in Great George Street in May 1997. The items of news I mentioned at the start of this article suggest what these memos will be about.

First, the new Chancellor will see that inflation, while still moderate, is accelerating away from the 2.5 per cent target — with nothing in sight to suggest why this trend might spontaneously go into reverse. Secondly, he will find that consumer spending is growing strongly, even if manufacturing output remains disappointingly weak. Thirdly, he will be told that the Bank of England is clamouring even more stridently than before the election for an increase in base rates, and his Treasury team will advise him that the Governor has a point (or earlier memos on inflation and consumer demand).

Fourthly, and most importantly, he will learn from his officials that the public finances are considerably worse than the Budget had projected. Every pre-election Budget in history has erred on the side of optimism about the trends in public spending and tax revenues. Even assuming that Mr Clarke resists completely the temptation to spike up his last Budget with a bit of creative accounting, the IFS Green Budget clearly suggests what is likely to go wrong.

The public spending plans

laid out in the last Budget — which the Chancellor's Cabinet colleagues have probably agreed to stick to in the summer expenditure review — assumed the lowest growth rate of real public expenditure achieved by any government in living memory. In fact, the planned total growth of real public spending in the three years from April 1996 onwards is only one eighth of the growth in the three years after the 1992 election and one quarter of the growth after the 1987 election. To believe that these ultra-ambitious targets would actually be hit by a Tory government returning to office is difficult.

To think that a new Labour government would feel absolutely bound by Tory plans which were so manifestly unrealistic would be stretching credibility to breaking point. By the time the election is over, it should be crystal clear that the public spending targets will be overshot. That Chancellor is the bad news," the Permanent Secretary will tell him. "But these other two memos have some good news that should help to brighten up your first day in the job. This paper here shows that even with spending overshooting the last Government's targets, the budget deficit is not going to expand too much. The other memo is from the Bank of England. It says that their dealers are seeing heavy buy orders for sterling from New York, Zurich and Tokyo. So, as long as we don't make the Governor too angry and we don't let the vermin in the press get too excited about the overshoot in public spending, we won't have to worry about a run on the pound. With inflation and consumption rising, while the higher PSBR puts more pressure

on the economy, there really is no alternative to taking the Governor's advice. We will have to raise interest rates. And with the kind of enthusiasm we're seeing for sterling assets, a bit of a monetary tightening will really do financial and consumer confidence no harm."

It will be at this point that the new Chancellor could be lulled into a false sense of security and the seeds for Britain's next economic crisis could be sown. The IFS Green Budget lays out some figures which suggest why the Chancellor might feel relaxed about the overshoot in public borrowing — and thereby do the economy permanent harm.

The Green Budget shows two scenarios for public borrowing (see bottom chart). The first is based on the present official assumption that public spending will grow by only 0.75 per cent a year in real terms and will therefore shrink rapidly in relation to the economy. This would in theory reduce the PSBR to zero by 1999-2000 and produce a budget surplus the following year. The second scenario is based on the more realistic (though in my view still over-optimistic assumption) that public spending will grow at the economy's trend rate of real economic growth, assumed to be 2.25 per cent. If this happens, public spending and borrowing will still shrink as a proportion of GDP, since the economy should grow faster than 2.25 per cent in the next few years. But the deficit will contract to only 1.1 per cent of GDP in 1999-2000 and 0.6 per cent of GDP in 2000-01.

Because the overshoot in public spending and borrowing will be only moderate (at least at first), the new Government will see no reason to impose an immediate austerity plan in a post-election mini-Budget. Rather than finding new and unpopular cuts in public spending or breaking its election promise not to raise taxes, the Government will simply tolerate higher public borrowing. The financial markets, for their part, are hardly likely to panic at the sight of the sort of figures presented in the Green Budget. As long as the PSBR is still moving downwards — however slowly — confidence in sterling will certainly not be undermined.

On the contrary, the markets will see in Britain one of the very few countries in the world proposing to combine a moderate loosening of fiscal policy with a tightening of monetary policies. The markets have discovered that this policy mix can act as a sort of rocket fuel for currencies, capable of carrying them to undreamt-of heights. If you are an exporter you should start praying that the next Chancellor wakes up before this happens to sterling — or think about an acquisition in Italy or France.

### BUSINESS LETTERS

#### Gas safety liability issue leaves domestic users at risk

From Mr C. H. Morgans  
Sir. Now that the Director-General of Ofgas has some time on her hands while the Monopolies and Mergers people decide whether the safety of the national gas grid is more important than 96p a week on domestic consumer bills, perhaps she could turn her attention to another much more important facet of gas consumer concern by sorting out the liability shambles created by contentious gas safety regulation, putting approximately 16 million domestic gas consumers into potential triple jeopardy in the event of any sort of combustion incident.

The problem arises because the Health and Safety Commission produced Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations (with ACOP and other guidance notes under the Health and Safety at Work Act which clearly implicate private domestic consumers, and many trading in or with the PDC sector, in statutory prohibitions and duties which, as currently drafted, may be interpreted as across-the-

board "law". The spanner in the works is plausible opinion that provisions under the Health and Safety at Work Act cannot be lawfully extended outside the limits of commercial employer/employee conditions or beyond the strict definition of business-to-business relationships.

The monumental and unacceptable ambiguity thus engendered puts a big question mark over liability and insurance factors for both domestic consumers and anyone else implicated in what may in fact still be a fundamentally "unregulated" private sector, requiring quite different protective "terms and conditions" to those which might apply if gas safety regulation was universally effective under civil as well as commercial law.

Right now everyone involved is in an invidious position, and the only potential beneficiary from the confusion is, wait for it ... the insurance industry.

If Mrs Spottiswoode can clear this one up she will have

done more for consumers, artisans and national gas safety objectives than British Gas, the HSE and Corgi put together, though it is somehow doubted that the insurance industry will be giving her a £100,000 bonus.

Yours faithfully,

C. H. MORGANS,  
Combustion Safety Assessment Services,  
115 Woodstock Valley Road,  
Purley, Surrey.

From Ms Sheila Widra  
Sir, The British Gas fiasco continues! I have just received a red notice dated September 23, threatening supply cut-off unless I pay a bill for £130.24 outstanding since June 13. This, despite the fact that my bill for £105.27 was paid in June and I am currently in credit with British Gas for some £55. There has been no letter of apology and all telephone calls remain unanswered. Will I be able to trust the amount of the next bill? Yours faithfully,  
SHEILA WIDRA,  
163 Covington Way, SW16.

#### Service hotline in working order

From Mr Paul Jacques  
Sir, While I have every sympathy for Mr Ford (Business letters, October 4) I must in fairness to British Gas record my experiences of late.

On Friday, September 27 my boiler was failing to ignite. I telephoned British Gas early in the morning; an engineer called later that day and carried out a repair. Unfortunately the boiler failed again during the night and I had to call British Gas again on the Saturday. The engineer was there before midday, carried out a temporary repair and said that the part would be ordered. We have received information that the new part will be fitted this coming Friday.

I am not sure whether a reply to service numbers depends on the location but certainly British Gas cannot be faulted in this area.  
Yours faithfully,  
PAUL JACQUES,  
80 Bilton Road,  
Rugby, Warwickshire.

# Old-World assault on New World

Tunku Varadarajan looks at a luxury goods company with family values

**E**nrique Loewe Lynch, a soft-voiced Spaniard of mixed Irish and German descent, has every reason to purr contentedly. Loewe, the Spanish leather goods, fashion and perfume company of whose board of directors he is chairman, has completed 150 years of elegant existence and is gearing itself up for a serious assault on the European and American markets.

With an annual turnover of \$200 million and an enviable reputation for Old-World craftsmanship, Loewe (pronounced "low-ay-way") was acquired earlier this year by Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy, the French luxury goods group that also owns Dior and Givenchy.

However, a vital market in which the company lacks a presence is America. An over-ambitious showroom, set up in New York's Trump Tower in 1983, failed for want of proper publicity and back-up.

Yet Senior Loewe, the fourth generation of the German clan that established a small leather goods shop in Madrid's Calle Lobo in 1846, is determined that the company should still be seen as representing "family" values. He said: "We are a small team, with a sense of loyalty to our traditional methods, and LVMH will certainly not tamper with the essence of that image."

Loewe's glamorous image is best represented by Christy Turlington, Naomi Campbell, Yasmin Le Bon and the other supermodels who adorn the pages of the fashion magazines.

But such contemporary chic is created painstakingly by the company's 1,000 employees, many of them traditional craftsmen, who put together Loewe's distinctive products at workshops in Spain.

Senior Loewe said: "Many of our master-craftsmen are descended from fathers and grandfathers who worked with the company. I am not the only member of the long Loewe family."

Today Loewe's luxury goods are arguably the first examples since the Hispano-Suiza of a Spanish manufactured product being at the forefront of international luxury market.

This has diminished substantially with Spain's reincorporation into the European mainstream and its adoption of western standards of quality control.

Senior Loewe said: "Our intention is to give Spain the image it deserves." He added: "Very few today know how to use 19th-century skills to cater to 20th-century tastes. But we are experts."

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## Conran plans return to NY

FROM RICHARD THOMSON  
IN NEW YORK

SIR Terence Conran is planning a return to New York after years of absence with a restaurant and furniture store in a major new development to be built at the foot of Manhattan's Queensboro Bridge.

The new restaurant is the first he has planned outside Britain and represents an important development in Conran's international business expansion. Since his Storehouse group sold the furniture chain in New York several years ago he has shied away from new business ventures there, despite opening successful outlets in cities such as Paris and Tokyo. Last month he opened Conran shops in Hamburg, and Fukuoka in Japan.

Conran Holdings insiders said the problem had mainly been finding the right site in Manhattan. He plans a 10,000 square foot restaurant on the development which was this week given planning consent.

Conran is the most prestigious tenant in the large development known as the Bridgemarket, a former



THE joint chief executives of David Brown Group, the specialist engineering company, have redefined their roles to fill the gap left by the abrupt departure this summer of Sir Terence Harrison, former non-executive chairman, after only six months in the job (Keith Rogers writes).

The company announced yesterday that Chris

Cook, left, has taken over as chairman, with Chris Brown, right, appointed sole chief executive. It said payment for the balance of Sir Terence's three-year contract "won't be far short" of a six-figure sum.

David Brown reported a 33 per cent leap in pre-tax profits to £8.7 million for the six months to August 2.

on turnover up 28 per cent to £90.8 million. Earnings

per share climbed 21 per cent to 9p, while the dividend, payable on November 21, was raised from 2.5p to 2.65p. The results, in line with expectations, reflected mixed conditions. Profits at the industrial gears division climbed 48 per cent, pumps profits jumped 63 per cent and profits in the mobile equipment drives business increased by 15 per cent.

## American Ir£60m growth in Dublin fuels Irish jobs boom

FROM EILEEN McCABE IN DUBLIN

JOHN BRUTON, the Irish Taoiseach, yesterday confirmed that 3Com, the American computer company, is to create 775 jobs in Dublin.

The company is to spend Ir£60 million to expand its research and manufacturing operations at its Blanchardstown plant on the outskirts of the city to bring the total workforce there to 1,200.

Earlier this week Fidelity Investments, one of the

world's largest fund managers, said it wants to set up its new European technology headquarters in Dublin, creating 400 new jobs.

And Sandoz, the Swiss-based pharmaceutical company, announced a Ir£60 million investment to create a further 100 jobs at its manufacturing plant in Cork. The company already has a workforce of 250 at the site. Dublin is awash with ru-

mours of even bigger job announcements to come. One government source boasted: "Next week is shaping up very well indeed." The new investments are expected to be in the computer-related, tele-marketing and pharmaceutical sectors.

The Industrial Development Association, Ireland's job-creation agency, has confirmed that it is close to signing an agreement with Citibank to create a 700-job administration centre in Dublin. The IDA is prepared to give the US bank Ir£5 million in grant aid to move all of its European back-office administration to Dublin.

If the move goes ahead it will mark the first major success of the IDA's new marketing campaign to persuade major international banking groups to centralise their European back-office activities in Ireland.

In spite of the fact that Ireland is now attracting more than 30 per cent of all new manufacturing investment in Europe, and is making major advances in the financial services sector, its unemployment rate of 12.5 per cent is still one of the highest in Europe.

One of the reasons for the stubbornly high rate is the huge number of Irish people returning to take up the new jobs.

## Fitness First to float on AIM next week

BY FRASER NELSON

FITNESS FIRST will become the first standalone health club chain to come to the market next Wednesday, when it floats on the Alternative Investment Market valued at £22 million.

The company has raised £8 million from the placing, which it will use to boost its portfolio of clubs from six to 25. It was formed in 1992 when Michael Balloch and Christopher Pearce, managing director and chairman, paid £800,000 for a Bournemouth health club, with private backing.

Sales have shot from

£331,000 to £2.68 million since 1993 and the company broke into profit last year, making £504,000 before tax. Profits of £700,000 are expected in the year to October 31.

Mr Balfour and Mr Pearce will become paper millionaires: both retain a 16 per cent stake. Mr Pearce is also chief executive of Electrophoresis, an AIM-listed biochemical stock. Henderson Croswain has placed ten million shares of Fitness First with institutions at 80p each, at the higher end of expectations.



### Downsizing by Ferguson lifts margins

FERGUSON International Holdings, which recently sold all but its label division, said yesterday that the divestment had boosted profitability and nearly eliminated debt (Fraser Nelson writes).

Pre-tax profits rose to £5.99 million (£5.63 million) in the six months to August 31, as margins recovered to 8.7 per cent (6.7 per cent). Earnings were 10.1p per share (8.5p), boosted by the sharp drop in interest payments. With borrowings at £2.02 million (£2.1 million), gearing fell to 6 per cent (76 per cent). The interim dividend is held at 4.5p.

Denis Cassidy, chairman, warned that cost savings would be slow, and were unlikely to have much influence on second-half trading.

## Albert Fisher sale of AFD tops £73m

BY CLARE STEWART

ALBERT FISHER, the food distribution group, has finalised the long-awaited sale of AFD, its North American business, realising a higher than expected price.

It is to sell AFD for a total consideration of £73.5 million to a new company, set up by Rosecliff, a New York merchant bank. The deal comprises £57.5 million in cash and £16 million in loan notes. Albert Fisher will subscribe for 20 per cent of the equity at a cost of £3.2 million.

The disposal concludes the shake-up at Albert Fisher, which has seen it shift its focus to higher added-value businesses such as seafood, as well as food processing in the UK.

The group said that further expansion of AFD's distribution business in the US would require more acquisitions, a strategy that would conflict with its planned development of River Ranch, its fresh and prepared foods arm in the US, which it believes has huge growth potential.

AFD, which is made up of 25 companies in the US and Canada, made profits of £5 million in the year to August, on total sales of £82.3 million.

Year-end results from Albert Fisher are due next week and analysts are looking for pre-tax profits before exceptional items of around £41 million, up from £39.5 million in 1995.

The US disposal will increase the level of exceptional items, however, to around £150 million for the year after taking on board a large amount of reversible goodwill. Gearing is expected to fall from around 90 per cent to 60 per cent.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Maunders payout held after downturn

JOHN MAUNDERS GROUP, the housebuilder with operations in the North West, the Midlands and the south of England, is holding the total dividend at 5.7p a share after suffering a downturn in profits to £4.5 million before tax from £7 million in the year to June 30. The company said that the results reflected the difficult trading conditions that prevailed for much of the year. Although conditions had improved in the South since spring, a recovery had yet to be felt in other parts of the country. Earnings fell to 12.07p a share from 18.82p. The final dividend is held at 3.25p a share, due on November 28. The shares were unchanged at 193.5p.

The company reported that turnover fell to £67.8 million from £76 million, with the number of completions dropping to 1,001 from 1,089. The average selling price of homes fell slightly to £68,000 from £70,000. A part-exchange facility was used in respect of 34 per cent of house sales, against 25 per cent previously. The bank value of Maunders' land rose to £34.4 million from £31.9 million, representing 1,800 plots, with a further 570 under contract. The company maintains a land supply to meet demand for the next 30 months. John Maunders, chairman, said that current land prices, particularly in the South, were too high in relation to the eventual selling price of new homes.

### Richards Group halted

SHARES of Richards Group, the engineering company based in Birmingham, were suspended at 85p yesterday pending clarification of its financial position. Richards, which incurred pre-tax losses of £1.68 million on sales of £19.86 million in 1995, supplies products to a variety of industries, including oil, petrochemicals, electricity, foundries and mining. It said a further announcement to clarify the situation would be made as soon as possible. The shares have fallen sharply from a 1996 high of 30p.

### Aetna cutting 4,400 jobs

AETNA INC, the American insurance and financial services company, is to shed 4,400 jobs in the restructuring of its healthcare and retirement services subsidiaries at a cost of \$307 million. Aetna plans a third-quarter charge of \$32 million and a fourth-quarter charge of \$275 million. The restructuring follows the acquisition of US Healthcare earlier this year. Aetna said that a total of 7,500 jobs would be lost but expect this to be partly offset by the creation of jobs in other areas, such as sales and marketing.

### LIG to shut US plant

LONDON INTERNATIONAL GROUP is to close its condom manufacturing plant at Anderson, South Carolina, and cut about 200 permanent and 150 temporary jobs over the next 12 months. All manufacturing from the Anderson factory will move to LIG's plant in Alabama. Total costs of the closure and other restructuring in America are to be met from existing provisions, which include the additional provision of £8 million notified over the purchase in May of Aladan, a US manufacturer of condoms and gloves, for £46 million.

### Beauford buying VZS

BEAUFORD is disposing of Bradford Engineers, its last engineering business, to Motherwell Bridge Holdings for £1.8 million and acquiring a second ceramics company in its corporate refocusing. It is buying VZS Group, formed through a management buyout from Cookson Group in 1994, for £4 million. In 1995 VZS earned £512,059 before tax on turnover of £3.26 million. Beauford announced interim pre-tax profits of £606,000 (£545,000). Adjusted earnings stayed at 10.3p a share. Interim dividend is 0.25p a share (0.2p).

### JKX ahead in Ukraine

JKX Oil and Gas, the exploration company with interests in the former Soviet Union, produced 5,700 barrels of oil per day during the first six months of the year, mainly from the Novo-Nikolaevskoye field in Poltava, Ukraine. It made an interim pre-tax loss of £1.2 million (£484,000 loss) but said the Poltava project and Ninotsminda field in Georgia were now producing hard-currency income. In addition, the company was negotiating with major gas distributors to co-operate in downstream activities in the Ukraine. There is no dividend.

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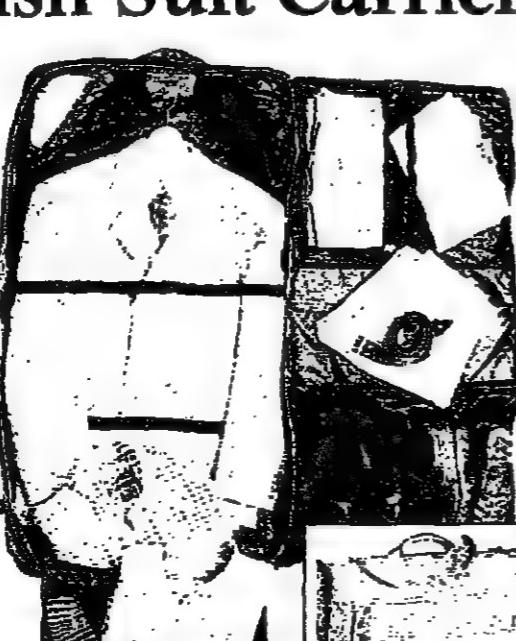


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## Equities and gilts lower

**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
100%	99%		100%	-	-	PE
100%	99%	Affiliated Breweries	67.67	6.67	10.6	
100%	99%	Bass	17.17	5.37	12.1	
100%	99%	Brewing & Malting	19.19	5.29	19.1	
100%	99%	Brasserie A	19.19	5.29	19.1	
100%	99%	British Beer Co	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	British Gas	10.00	4.00	15.0	
100%	99%	British Telecom	19.19	5.29	19.1	
100%	99%	British Water	10.00	4.00	15.0	
100%	99%	Carlsberg	19.19	5.29	19.1	
100%	99%	Carrington	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Charrington	19.19	5.29	19.1	
100%	99%	Coors	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Damro	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Davidsons	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Deutsche B	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Diageo	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Durham Distillers	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Estrella Damm	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Fisons	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Globe	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Habicht	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Hartmann	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Hewitts	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Hollandia	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Imperial Distillers	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	John Smiths	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Kingsway	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Lagerhaus	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Levi-Strauss	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Malouf	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Mitfords	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Monks	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Montgomery Ward	14.00	4.00	18.0	
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100%	99%	Porterhouse	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Ramsdens	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Reed	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Robt Williams	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Rowntree	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Saint James	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Salomon Brothers	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Seagram	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Shanks	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Smiths	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Stollwerck	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Tetley	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Thornhill	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Whitbread	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Wills	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Woolworths	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Wrigley	14.00	4.00	18.0	
100%	99%	Young & Rubicam	14.00	4.00	18.0	

### BANKS

High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
100%	99%	ABN Amro	100.00	6.00	12.7	
100%	99%	Barclays	100.00	6.00	12.7	
100%	99%	Bankers Trust	100.00	6.00	12.7	
100%	99%	Chase Manhattan	100.00	6.00	12.7	
100%	99%	Citicorp	100.00	6.00	12.7	
100%	99%	Commerzbank	100.00	6.00	12.7	
100%	99%	Deutsche Bank	100.00	6.00	12.7	
100%	99%	First Boston	100.00	6.00	12.7	
100%	99%	HSBC	100.00	6.00	12.7	
100%	99%	ICI	100.00	6.00	12.7	
100%	99%	Investec	100.00	6.00	12.7	
100%	99%	Lehman Brothers	100.00	6.00	12.7	
100%	99%	NatWest	100.00	6.00	12.7	
100%	99%	Standard Chartered	100.00	6.00	12.7	
100%	99%	Swiss Bank	100.00	6.00	12.7	
100%	99%	Unicredit	100.00	6.00	12.7	
100%	99%	Westpac	100.00	6.00	12.7	
100%	99%	Woolworths	100.00	6.00	12.7	

### BREWERIES, PUBS & RESTAURANTS

High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
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100%	99%	Barry Calvert	100.00	6.00	12.7	
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## RESEARCH

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1. The Leverhulme Trustees propose to support the appointment of a small number of personal research professors in UK universities. Each chair will normally be held for five years.  
 2. Eligible applicants: Either (a) academics who have been regularly employed in the UK for at least seven years and who have spent at least three out of the past five years in the UK; or (b) academics of UK nationality. Candidates must be under 61 on 30 September 1998. There is no other age limit, but the Trustees have agreed to give some, although not exclusive, preference to well-established scholars.  
 3. Eligible fields: Any field in the humanities or social sciences.  
 4. Support offered: At the scheme's inception, a stipend of £41,000 (1995 figure) uprated in light of national agreements, for the academic year starting 1st October 1997 plus London allowance where appropriate. The employer's national insurance and superannuation contributions and some research expenses will also be covered.  
 5. Closing date for applications: 4.30 p.m. on Friday 6 December 1996. Results by April 1997.  
 6. Starting date: As early as possible during the 1997-98 academic year.  
 Further particulars, including details of method of application and documentation required, may be obtained from the Trust by sending a self-addressed C5 envelope stamped for 80g to: The Leverhulme Trust, 15-19 New Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1NR. Requests must be received by 29 November 1996. These particulars cannot be faxed.  
 Registered charity no. 288371

## POSTS

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS JOINT COUNCIL ISJC APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL SECRETARY**

The Independent Schools Joint Council invites applications for the post of General Secretary which becomes vacant on 1st September 1997, following the retirement of Dr Arthur Headman OBE.

The Council is a federation of the eight main associations of independent schools. It represents their interests in discussions with Government Departments and other organisations and speaks on behalf of the independent sector as a whole. Its press and public relations arm is the Independent Schools Information Service (ISIS) with whose National Director the General Secretary works closely.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Independent Schools Joint Council, Grosvenor Gardens House, 35-37 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0BS.

The closing date for applications is 30 November 1996.

## UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

**THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES St. Augustine, Trinidad**

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## FELLOWSHIPS

**JESUS COLLEGE OXFORD****Visiting Senior Research Fellowship 1997-98**

The College proposes to elect a distinguished fellow to a Visiting Senior Research Fellowship for the academic year 1997-98. The Fellowship is intended for a scholar who normally works outside Oxford, who is able to provide financial support, and who wishes to pursue academic study and research as a member of an Oxford college. The College has a preference for applicants able to visit for the whole academic year but, in any event, no election will be made for less than one term. The Fellow will be a member of Christ Church College, Oxford, and will have access to lecture rooms. A small study room will be available free of charge; residential accommodation may be available on payment. The College has a preference, in 1997-98, for a scholar in the Arts or Social Sciences.

Applicants should write to the Principal's Secretary, Jesus College, Oxford, OX1 3DW, not later than Friday 6 November 1996, enclosing a curriculum vitae, a list of publications, a brief statement of the programme of work to be pursued, and the names of three referees (one of whom should, preferably, be from within Oxford University). It is the responsibility of applicants to ask their referees to send their references direct to the Principal's Secretary by the same date.

Jesus College is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

**EDUCATION****The Leverhulme Trust****RESEARCH PROGRAMMES**

The Leverhulme Trustees invite applications from established researchers for grants to meet the costs of programme(s) of research into the following areas:

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3. **C. CONSUMPTION, WELFARE AND HOUSEHOLDS**

**D. THE PUBLIC SECTOR, REGULATION AND MARKETS**

Grants could be for a series of linked projects and provide for direct research costs of up to £200,000 per annum for each programme for up to five years.

For further details, please write enclosing a self-addressed C5 envelope stamped for 100g to:

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## SCHOLARSHIPS

**GRANTS FOR VENETIAN RESEARCH**

The trustees of the Gladys Krieble Delaney Foundation of New York announce that up to £12,000 will be made available in 1997/8 to scholars of Great Britain and the Commonwealth for RESEARCH IN VENICE.

The areas of interest envisaged concern both the past (history, art, architecture, music, law, science, literature, language) and the present (politics, culture, conservation, environment) of Venice and the territories once subject to it. Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary to the Foundation's Advisory Committee:

Professor M.E. Mallett, Department of History, University of Warwick,  
 COVENTRY, CV4 7AL

to whom eventual applications should be sent by 26th January 1997.

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## FELLOWSHIPS

**Clare Hall Cambridge****Research Fellowships Arts and Social Sciences**

The Governing Body of Clare Hall proposes to elect one stipendiary Research Fellow and two or more non-stipendiary Research Fellows in the Arts and Social Sciences for a period of three years starting mainly from October 1997. There are no restrictions on age, sex or previous standing, except that those who have previously held College Research Fellowships in Oxford or Cambridge are not eligible.

The closing date for the receipt of applications and references is Monday 2 December 1996. Candidates are responsible for sending that their curriculum vitae and references reach the College by this date.

Application forms to be obtained from: The Tutorial Secretary, Clare Hall, Cambridge CB3 9AL, UK.

Candidates will be asked on their applications to state whether, in the event of their not being elected to the stipendiary fellowship, they would be willing to accept a non-stipendiary fellowship before elections to such a fellowship; candidates would need to demonstrate to the Committee that they will have financial support from other sources.

**JESUS COLLEGE OXFORD****Junior Research Fellow in English**

The College proposes to elect to a Junior Research Fellowship, tenable for three years from 1 October 1997, for one man or one woman intending to pursue research in any field of English Language or Literature.

Further information may be obtained from the Principal's Secretary, Jesus College, Oxford OX1 3DW, who should receive applications by 15 November 1996.

It is the responsibility of applicants to ask their referees (three are required) to send their references direct to the Principal's Secretary by the same date.

Jesus College is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

The College proposes to elect to a Junior Research Fellowship, tenable for three years from 1 October 1997. The post is open to men or women intending to pursue research in any field of Physics.

Further information may be obtained from the Principal's Secretary, Jesus College, Oxford OX1 3DW, who should receive applications by 15 November 1996.

It is the responsibility of applicants to ask their referees (three are required) to send their references direct to the Principal's Secretary by the same date.

## UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

**VICE CHANCELLOR**

The University invites applications for the post of Vice Chancellor which will become vacant on 1 October 1997 on the retirement of Professor T.M. Husband. The recent institutional merger has created an institution of over 18,000 students. There is the unique opportunity to consolidate and build on this to obtain maximum benefit from the distinctive portfolios and approaches of the constituents whilst retaining the shared commitment to partnership with industry, commerce and the public sector. The Vice Chancellor will have a challenging leadership role in further strengthening the University's research and teaching in the competitive environment of the millennium and in the rapidly changing financial context.

Further particulars are available from the Registrar, University of Salford, Salford M5 4WT. Letters of enquiry or application should be addressed to Dr J. Goldberg, Chairman of the Council, c/o the Registrar (marked 'Personal') and should arrive not later than 4 November 1996.

The University reserves the right to consider persons other than those who submit applications.

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## EDUCATION

# Teaching revolution sweeps Japanese schools

**John O'Leary** reports on a radical change in the education system that is seen as the key to renewed prosperity

Schools must get away from rote learning and concentrate on developing the whole child, allowing pupils to learn from experience wherever possible. At all levels, academic pressure should be lifted from children, and parents who doubt the wisdom of such changes must be coaxed out of their old-fashioned attitudes.

This is not a press release from the National Union of Teachers in the Sixties, but the gist of a recent circular from the Japanese education ministry. Just as British schools are being told to follow the example of their counterparts in Japan and other parts of the Pacific rim, Japan is moving in the opposite direction.

The Japanese have a million miles to go before they encounter the excesses of child-centred education and lose the qualities that have been the foundations of a successful nation. But the concepts are eerily familiar to those who marvel at the high standards and orderliness of their schools.

However, the Japanese see the liberalisation as essential and overdue. For different reasons, they are almost as dissatisfied with their educational system as many in the West are with their own. Politicians and educators blame the narrowly academic approach, buttressed by hours in crammers, for lack of creativity and damaging introversion.

Japan's self-confidence has been denied by recent economic problems, and education is seen as the key to renewed prosperity. Schools are being urged to turn out team players with a better understanding of the world, rather than examination machines.

Until now, each stage of education has been little more than a

preparation for the next entrance examination. The ultimate aim is a place at a top-ranking university, which will be the passport to a rewarding career. Parents will make any financial sacrifice and their children will work hours unimaginable in the West.

Inevitably, such pressure affects the individual and society. Growing numbers of children (50,000 at the last count) are diagnosed as school-phobic and bullying has become a national obsession as a result of suicides among young victims. Last month, a 13-year-old boy left a note naming his tormentors, one of whose fathers committed suicide because of the shame.

Schools are addressing the problem locally, but the Government sees a need for more radical measures. School phobics are no longer forced to return to the classroom, and the new approach is designed to ease the pressure on the rest.

The traditional six-day week has been reduced. Pupils will have given alternate Saturdays off and there is a proposal to abolish weekend classes entirely by the end of the century to promote family life and give the young a chance to socialise.

The worry is that parents will see it as an opportunity for more cramming. There are more than 2,000 Kumon schools, where children from the age of two upwards go twice a week for extra Japanese, mathematics, or English, in Tokyo alone. Thousands more go to conventional crammers to see them through high school or university entrance examinations.

Switching to a five-day week will mean reducing the amount pupils are expected to learn at a time when the style of teaching is also changing. Out goes what the Japanese



Two Japanese girls learn the alphabet at school, where teachers are urged to change their approach

describe as "memory education" and in comes "mental education", designed to improve analytical skills and powers of communication with more attention to the individual.

Minoru Tomita, the principal of Nishitoyama Elementary School in Tokyo, acknowledges: "This is easier to say than to do because parents are still very eager for their children to advance to a good school and it is difficult to identify individual needs when there are up to 40 children in a class. More important still, it will be extremely difficult for the teachers, who have no experience of this type of education."

Traditional methods, involving considerable repetition, will still be used to ensure that the basics are firmly embedded, but this school

wants its children, aged six to twelve, to learn as much as possible through experience. They will buy their own train tickets, for example, or see how the postal system works.

Like all Japanese children in primary schools, they have some practical lessons. Lunch is served by the pupils, who also clean their classroom and other school areas at the end of the day.

At Japan's largest school, the 3,000-pupil Inagakuen Comprehensive Upper Secondary School, an hour's drive north of Tokyo, experiments in education are being taken further with the introduction of subjects such as gardening and car maintenance.

Inagakuen is heavily oversubscribed, and some pupils travel two hours to school. But the school is playing its part in the move away

from the reliance on entrance examinations by taking personal qualities into account.

The school still demonstrates the need for modernisation in some areas. There is little use of computers, for example, and few pupils have ever heard of the Internet.

Professor Hidemori Fujita, a critic of the education system from Tokyo University, sees little sign of a change of heart among ambitious parents.

"The changes are likely to have an enormous cultural impact," he says. "At the moment schools are expected to take responsibility for every aspect of a child's life, and it has become impossible for them to fulfil the role adequately. More emphasis will fall on the home and the local community, and no one is sure how they will cope."

Commercial theatre owners are recognising that dramatic action needs to be taken to entice young people away from their televisions and back into the theatre. Stoll Moss, which owns 30 per cent of the seats in London's West End, is following the lead of the subsidised sector in devising an education programme with outreach sessions in schools, workshops and information packs linked to the national curriculum.

Suzanne Gilmarin, of Stoll Moss, points out that the average theatre-goer is 50-plus, and that dwindling numbers of the younger generation are excited by live performance. "At this rate, we will soon have empty buildings that will have to be filled with bingo," she says.

Theatres must actively compete with the video and satellite offerings of plays and concerts brought straight into the home. "The magic of the live performance is moving further and further away," says Ms Gilmarin. "These are our audiences of tomorrow. Let's do something about it."

Last year, 11 million West End tickets out of a possible total of 16 million were sold. Stoll Moss, which owns ten buildings, including the Theatre Royal Drury Lane (where *Miss Saigon* is playing) and the Queen's Theatre (where *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* with Gene Wilder has just opened), sold 3.5 million of those tickets.

Now the company is to appoint an education manager. Ms Gilmarin said: "Halfway through a production, their attention drops and that's when scuffles can break out in the back rows. The average 12-year-old is not used to being so quiet. We will provide more support to a group when they arrive, looking for certain things to keep their attention."

Plans include behind-the-scenes tours, workshops with the designer and producer, and lesson plans to help the teachers. "Observation sheets" and quizzes with prizes to get the children to observe details.

Stoll Moss itself has been observing the education programmes run by Sir Cameron Mackintosh for *Cats* and the Really Useful Group for *Starlight Express*. David Grindrod, the production co-ordinator who oversees the education programme with the Really Useful Group, says their programme involving 500 children a week makes a dramatic difference. They attend

theatres need to reach out to compete effectively."

However, Sarah Argent, the director of the Association of Professional Theatre for Children and Young People, is worried that these programmes will take the place of the Theatre in Education (Tie) schemes that have been bruised badly by local authority cutbacks. "This should not be a replacement," she emphasises.

The Arts Council has just conducted the first national audit of education programmes, contacting every arts group funded by either the Arts Council or regional arts boards. It found that 78 per cent feature education among their activities. "That's a huge number," says Jillian Barker, its education and training officer. "Just 15 years ago, you would hardly have found any. Arts organisations, in an attempt to be more accessible, have realised that they need actively to develop links with the community in which they are based."

## THE TIMES

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## Enter, stage left: tours and quizzes to lure the children

**Dalya Alberge** reports on how theatres are enticing the audiences of tomorrow

an hour's session in the morning before the matinee production staff take them behind the scenes to observe how the lighting, sound and set work. An actor discusses the role and how they got through the audition. Mr Grindrod says: "These are the audiences for the future. If you think of theatre as elitist, you won't get the kids in there. We show them it's fun."

Susan Whiddington of the Society of London Theatre (Solt) applauds Stoll Moss's scheme. "I hope other commercial theatres do the same. As there are all kinds of leisure activities for young people,



Feline appeal: two of the cast of *Cats*

## Action plan for teenagers with a zero future

**Iola Smith** on a disturbing inquiry into a county's angry youth

**S**tatus Zero teenagers have nothing. No qualifications, no job prospects, no training. Now a Training and Enterprise Council says it is determined to find ways of bringing them back from crime or the black economy.

Mid-Glamorgan TEC concludes in a report published this week that a national strategy involving schools, TECs and employers is needed if disaffected 16 and 17-year-olds are to be prepared for the world of work.

Forget the sentimental image, only the very best can take the strain of becoming an animal doctor, says Jennai Cox

## Making the grade as a vet

Tutors say students are better qualified and more intelligent every year and have a tremendous capacity for hard work.

Determination and self-discipline kept Trude Mostue, a Norwegian former milkmaid, going after she failed the first year. She is one of seven students featured in the series.

"It takes over your whole life and there is so much to learn," she says. "You really need to make sure you understand what the job involves before you start." Ten per cent of the first-year students drop out in the first two years.

Until the end of their third year, students are taught theory — anatomy, biochemistry and animal husbandry. It is not until the last year that they get their hands on live animals.

"Clerking" placements in veterinary surgeries where students are required to treat animals, is regarded as the most demanding part of the degree, and brings out any



weaknesses. The growing emphasis on practical work is recognition that those good at examinations do not always make good vets.

During holidays and while revising for finals, students work in different practices and

a good vet is someone who can put owners at ease," says Dr Frank Taylor, senior lecturer in equine medicine at Bristol. "You could be very gifted technically, but without being able to communicate you won't be any good as a vet."

Of equal importance is a business sense — for example, understanding the financial problems of a pensioner with a sick budget or a large farming enterprise with a fertility problem.

A common complaint from students is lack of business training. Another is the short time spent on exotic animals. "We concentrate on cattle, horses, cats and dogs, because those are the animals we'll mainly be dealing with," says Mike Sandiford, another student. He has accepted a job in Botswana at a hospital for injured wild animals and is encouraged that the study of exotics, increasingly kept as pets, is being extended.

Vets' School starts on Monday, BBC1, 8.30pm.

Growing pet ownership is leading to a severe shortage of vets and as a result graduates can secure good employment packages. But with debts, long hours and the need to make life-and-death decisions straight after qualifying, they are subject to great strain.

Survival rates are 2½ times the national average and four years ago the British Veterinary Association set up a helpline because of the number of young vets leaving the profession. Plans are also under way to research the extent of the problem.

Those considering a veterinary career need to be aware of the demands and 100 per cent sure of their motivation. Jon Coupe, a student in the series, says he lost 70 per cent of his compassion for animals doing the course, but another Stephen Leonard, says: "It's very hard work, there is no social life, but the work is tremendously rewarding. After finishing my first day I was over the moon. I loved every minute."

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## Court's power to hear foreign pill dispute

**Beecham Group plc and Another v Norton Healthcare Ltd and Others**

Before Mr Justice Jacob

Judgment October 1

When a plaintiff commenced a patent action and later discovered that a foreign defendant was using confidential information stolen from the plaintiff to manufacture medicinal products and was using an English defendant to get the patented product on to the UK market, the court was entitled to use its powers under Order 20, rule 5 of the Rules of the Supreme Court to grant the plaintiff leave to amend the writ in the patent action to include new causes of action based on breach of confidence.

In such a case the English court would not decline jurisdiction to hear the claim even though the product which was the subject matter of the action was being manufactured abroad.

Mr Justice Jacob so held in the Patent Court of the Chancery Division when granting leave to the plaintiffs, Beecham Group plc and Smith Kline Beecham plc for leave to re-amend their writ and statement of claim against the defendants, Norton Healthcare Ltd, H. N. Norton & Co Ltd and LEC Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals Co DD ("Lek").

Mr David Kitchen, QC, Mr Adrian Briggs, Mr Justin Turner and Mr Nicholas Shea for the plaintiffs; Mr Simon Thorley, QC and Mr Henry White for the first and second defendants; Mr Charles Sparrow, QC, for the third defendant.

MR JUSTICE JACOB said that the first two defendants, Norton, were associated English companies who intended to import from the third defendant, Lek, a Slovenian company, a medicinal tablet called "co-amoxiclav" which Lek manufactured.

The tablets contained a mixture

of potassium clavulanate and amoxicillin trihydrate. In combination the two substances were a powerful antibiotic.

Beecham sold co-amoxiclav under the trade name Augmentin which had large sales. Although the basic patents on clavulanic acid and amoxicillin and their salts had expired Beecham had several later patents particularly covering various aspects of the manufacture of clavulanic acid.

In February 1994 Beecham commenced quiet time proceedings against Norton for infringement of two of those patents, claiming that the potassium clavulanate in the co-amoxiclav would be "obtained directly by means of carrying out" the processes of the two patents, contrary to section 60(1)(c) of the Patents Act 1977. An interlocutory injunction was granted.

In April a live issue was the nature of the organism used by Lek. With the cooperation of Lek, who were under no obligation to do so, a consent order was made for an independent expert appointed by Beecham to have access to Lek's fermentation facilities to take samples and to identify the analysis of the micro-organism present.

However discovery did not go smoothly and in May, Beecham was granted leave to amend the writ and statement of claim so as to join Lek as defendant to the action with leave to serve out of the jurisdiction. Lek accepted service.

Even if there was such jurisdiction, his Lordship was not convinced that mere non-disclosure would amount to a sufficient basis for dealing with the plaintiff once service had been accepted.

Accordingly Lek's application as made was formally misconceived. Further it failed on the facts. There was no material non-disclosure or amendment to the writ.

The governing power of the court to allow the plaintiff to amend its writ was contained in Order 20, rule 5 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

Although Lek voluntarily submitted to the jurisdiction in order to save costs and time, it should be treated as a party which only came into the proceedings by virtue of service out of the jurisdiction.

No one had looked for that result. It was reached by accident.

The implications were enormous.

If right, then Lek's contentions were clearly false and they had come by a strain stolen from Beecham.

Beecham now applied to amend its statement of claim to

reflect the fact that it was a lot

to be said for the suggested cause of action. It squared with what an

equitable conscience required. Although it might require an investigation into what process was carried out abroad, that was not something the law was afraid of contemplating.

Lek's submissions were based substantially as an application under Order 12, rule 8 of the Rules of the Supreme Court to set aside the leave to serve out of the jurisdiction granted in May.

His Lordship said that there was a substantial difficulty in Lek's way, namely that it had accepted service and submitted to the jurisdiction. It did so in relation only to the patent claim but it did so in the less.

It was submitted that acceptance of service was obtained on a misrepresentation and that Lek was entitled to rescind that acceptance.

That view was supported by Holland v Leslie (1984) 2 QB 346 and Beck v Value (1975) 1 WLR 6.

The next question of principle concerned the Norton companies' cause of action in breach of confidence against them. Lek was committing a wrong and therefore that was the place where the trial should be.

His Lordship did not agree so far as the claim for breach of confidence was concerned.

There was a claim of real substance against Norton which was in respect of acts to be done here. Lek was a proper and necessary party to that action.

If there were an alleged wrongdoing here, doing wrong by our law, he could be sued and if a foreigner had to be brought in to do justice then that was what would generally happen.

There were several reasons which militated strongly in favour of the United Kingdom being a forum convenient for the trial of the breach of confidence action against Lek. So leave to serve out of the jurisdiction would be given if an application under Order 11 were made now.

The motion to remove Lek from the proceedings failed and the application for amendment against all the defendants succeeded.

Solicitors: Simmonds & Simmonds; Roiter Zucker; Alsop Wilkinson.

That action was settled by the Ratans giving undertakings to desist from any future infringements and to make amends giving the disclosure of the information sought and making an agreed payment of £4,000 in respect of damages and costs.

The order of the court, made on October 1, 1995, stayed all further proceedings in the action and was served on the Ratans endorsed with a penal notice.

Evidence subsequently emerged which suggested to Cobra that the Ratans had not adhered to the terms of the undertakings about future infringements nor been honest in their disclosures about their customers and suppliers.

Cobra therefore commenced a new action in respect of infringements committed since December 1 and sought an Anton Piller order seeking the same disclosures and to start the second action and to apply in that one for their order to use its fruits in committal proceedings in the first action did not evaporate, although they had recognised that they would first have to obtain leave.

If that consideration was linked to the fact that the bulk of the relief claimed in the second action was

relief which Cobra did not need

since they had already obtained it in the first one, it was not difficult to arrive near the edge of a conclusion that looking at the operation as a matter of substance, their Anton Piller relief was

sought not in aid of the prosecution of the second action but in the hope that it would enable them to commit the Ratans to prison for their contempt in the first action.

If that analysis were right, it

was really no dispute that Cobra's dominant intention in seeking the Anton Piller order in the first action was to use its fruits in contempt proceedings in that action; and when they instead elected to start the second action and to apply in that one for their order to use its fruits in committal proceedings in the first action did not evaporate, although they had recognised that they would first have to obtain leave.

Further, there was no question of the two actions being in substance one set of proceedings. They were not. The first action had been stayed to judgment. The second action was still pending. It would not at that stage be appropriate to make any order consolidating them.

In summary, his Lordship did not accept that there was any sufficient reason for giving Cobra the leave they sought. He dismissed their motion.

Solicitors: Eversheds: D. J. Freeman.

## Dominant purpose of order improper

**Cobra Golf Inc and Another v Rata and Others**

Before Mr Justice Rimer

Judgment September 18

Where the dominant purpose of seeking an Anton Piller order to search for and seize documents was to use its fruits in committal proceedings, the order was liable to be set aside. Defendants were entitled to the privilege against self-incrimination for civil contempt save in cases involving intellectual property or passing off.

Mr Justice Rimer so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division, dismissing (i) a motion by Cobra Golf Inc and Cobra Ltd against Robert Anthony Rata, Simon Paul Rata and Raymond John Rata and (ii) a motion by the Ratans against Cobra.

Mr Adrian Speck for Cobras: Mr Thomas Lowe for the Ratans.

MR JUSTICE RIMER said that Cobras were golf club manufacturers and suppliers and the registered proprietors of trade marks consisting of the words "Cobra" and "King Cobra" and a distinctive snake logo which were part of their range of golf clubs and accessories.

The Ratans carried on a substantial business importing, supplying and selling golf clubs and accessories and the component parts which made up golf clubs. They ran a string of about 29 retail outlets selling golf equipment.

On October 4, 1995, Cobras started an action against the Ratans in respect of "King Snake" clubs sold by them on alleged infringement of their trade marks and passing off and misleading injunctions, delivery up of infringing articles and orders for disclosure of the Ratans' suppliers and customers and damages or an account of profits.

That action was settled by the Ratans giving undertakings to desist from any future infringements and to make amends giving the disclosure of the information sought and making an agreed payment of £4,000 in respect of damages and costs.

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**THEATRE**  
*Marlene*, a new staged biography of Dietrich, is saved by one star turn



**CHOICE 1**  
Jason Donovan turns his talent to thrillers in *Night Must Fall*  
VENUE: Opens tonight, Theatre Royal, Haymarket

## THE TIMES ARTS



**CHOICE 2**  
Melvyn Tan marks his 40th birthday with a virtuoso piano recital  
VENUE: Tomorrow at the Wigmore Hall



**CHOICE 3**  
Greek tragedy, Romanian style: *Les Danaides* moves to Glasgow  
VENUE: This weekend at the Old Fruitmarket

THEATRE: Dietrich lives in a stunning portrayal by Sian Phillips. Plus, a beguiling Irish show

# One star inside another

M arlene Dietrich apparently believed that Piaf was the empress, while she was merely "the slave with the jar on the head". Although that struck me as seriously overstating the case, I did catch myself wondering if Piaf Gems, who has now written each singer's theatrical biography, wasn't herself in sympathy with the sentiment.

After all, the story of Piaf gave the dramatist her most successful and deeply felt play to date. But at the Oldham Coliseum, even the superlative Sian Phillips cannot turn Gems's new *Marlene* into much more than one of those cabaret or compendium shows that have recently been cramming our stages.

Phillips sweeps up the aisle with a flamboyantly bizarre cry of "Did I have a good trip? Is Bismarck a herring?", and makes her majestic way on to the segment of Michael Vale's split set that represents her dressing room. The pretence is that the time is the 1960s and her Dietrich is making a comeback in Paris. She is tired, nervous, garrulous, grandiose, yet so exasperated by the dirt on the dressing-room floor that she falls to her knees like a hausfrau and starts energetically mopping it clean.

One trouble is that, especially in the first half, it is not only she who seems scattered. Gems could be clearer, too. Who is the friend or relative with whom Dietrich has a long, obscure phone conversation about divorce? Moreover, who exactly is or was Vivian Hoffman, the lesbian chum or assistant played here by Lou Gish, and why does Billy Mathias spend the play mooshing speechlessly round the stage as an old lady called Muri? Perhaps their presence does not greatly matter, since

This is simpler and more effective than the tired device of introducing an invisible newspaper man in order to allow Dietrich yet again to display her eccentric mix of candour, mischief and arrogance. Still, I liked her descri-

## Sian Phillips defies the faults of *Marlene* with a display to match any of its subjects'

tion of Mahler as "a bowl of coffee ice-cream, only the waiter was too slow" and of her own voice as "a duck-shoo on a salt marsh in Siberia" — although Phillips dispenses

that particular slur with decent if not hugely Dietrichian renditions of several songs, ending with the inevitable *Falling In Love Again* in the inevitable glittering gown.

Whatever the flaws of *Marlene*, at least it has a fine actress at its core.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

to conjure up striking visual images overpowers other concerns.

Dancing from the ensemble is steady, if seldom captivating or impressive. The dancers look at their most vulnerable in small numbers. But more complex set pieces, such as a scene in which one member of the troupe is surrounded by "bees", stripped and stung to death, achieves a subtle and complex tone that mixes violence, melancholy and a touch of something comic. Ross O'Shoda's music, both live and recorded, does something very similar, though more regularly, deftly offering the brawk of exotic live percussion whenever prettiness threatens.

LUKE CLANCY

## Creating quite a buzz

In You Must Tell the Bees (Firkin Crane Arts Centre). MacIntyre creates a conversation about bees conducted in French, Irish and English. Inside his buzzing language, however, the playwright is more concerned with cities than hives, more interested in love than honey. MacIntyre creates creatures that offer polar opposites of sensation: the pain of the sting and the sweetness of honey, and uses them to move through an anthology of recognisably human experiences and

sensations. The piece operates at the limits of dance, and indeed frequently has more to do with performance art. The company taking a full range of props into the dance, and looks surprisingly at ease working among billowing smoke canisters, constructing a towering bee hive in golden metal and even — in an image that echoes some of Nigel Rolfe's performances — bathing bare flesh in pints of amber honey. Sometimes, however, director John Scott's desire

You Must Tell the Bees Cork

POSTER

PHOTOGRAPH



## ■ POP 1

Are Cast a nine-month wonder, or destined to be the biggest thing in Britpop?



## ■ POP 2

... and is the Aussie songwriter Ed Kuepper 'this century's last undiscovered genius'?

## THE TIMES POP ARTS



## ■ POP 3

The reclusive Polly Jean Harvey teams up with John Parish for a packed gig in a saloon bar



## ■ POP 4

Gabrielle's new single, and all the other top sounds: see *The Times Directory*, out tomorrow

**Paul Sexton talks to - no, listens to - Cast's motormouth front man on the eve of their biggest tour**

# Power of positive thinking

The American writer Fran Lebowitz once said that the opposite of talking isn't listening. In which case, John Power's fellow members of Cast must be used to twiddling their thumbs.

Power is the garrulous front man of one of British rock's most resounding success stories of the 1995-96 season. Engage him in conversation about Cast, about music, about anything, and you are advised to bring a shoehorn with which to get your words in edgeways. But then, you would probably also have a lot to say if you had risen from an existence spent drawing social security in Liverpool to leading the band of your dreams, then seen them achieve four big single hits, sell out tours and sell half a million albums in nine months.

Such is Cast's status that their song *Alright* is now being played around the world as the music for a new scooter commercial, while their anthemic ballad *Walkaway* became a natural sporting choice whenever a television director needed a downbeat piece of music to match a scene during Euro 96 and the Olympics.

The next steps in the group's ascent to the topmost of the popnose are taken this weekend, when Cast begin their biggest UK tour, playing 3,000 to 5,000 capacity venues. On Monday, the new single *Flying* will be in the record stores, while the album *All Change* continues its residency in the Top 40.

Cast's extraordinary success has everything to do with unalloyed easy-access guitar music and very little to do with the image consultants usually attendant on such occasions. Their ebullient spokesman takes a deep breath and says it is also a tribute to the power of the possible.

"Three, four years ago I was on the dole, writing songs and dreaming," Power says. "People relate to our music because they feel it's about them. They believe it because it's not so contrived. The reason I'm like this, man, is I threw myself into it. In other parts of life, I'm not as confident, I'm just as fearful as anyone."

"But the things that turn you on when you take on board: people singing

certain songs, people fighting for certain rights; Einstein or Gandhi or John Lennon or Marvin Gaye, these people and many, many more. The inspiration isn't just musical, it's all around."

Cast have also come this far without the seemingly *de rigueur* pouting and scrabbling for position that seems to obsess the pop-rock mainstream. Launched only in July last year, they were immediately thrust into the media contrivance of Britpop, but have comfortably outlived a term that, as Power says, was

player, but his plans were already percolating.

"Some people may have left a band they're embarrassed by, but the La's were a good band," he says. "People say 'Did you want to be a front man?' and I say no, but I wanted to write songs, so the bass would be left in the corner and the six-string guitar started getting picked up."

"The day I left the La's, I had Cast. But I didn't have the band. I had the theory."

Power, who did not play any instrument at all until he was 17, attributes some of his positivity to his upbringing. "Luckily I didn't have a mother or a father who said: 'That's the devil's music'. When people say 'Try harder', they should say 'Let go': if you are trying to learn something, it's only when you let it happen that it comes. What I'm trying to say is you are capable of achieving what's within your mind."

**The things we hope to touch on in our music are not in and not out, they just are**

never welcome in the Cast house. "We have no time for labels like that," he says. "Are Chas and Dave Britpop? That's what I want to know."

"When the hype was kicking around last summer about every band, there were 20 groups being hailed as the next big thing. I was saying: 'You can hype us if you want, we don't care. But when the hype goes, we'll deliver.'

"If your music is built upon hype, when the hype goes, you crumble with it. The things we hope to touch upon in our music are not in and not out, they just are."

Flying is a typically straightforward lyric by the aptly named Power. Like previous compositions, notably Cast's debut hit *Fine Time*, it is a simple statement about personal empowerment written by a young man who is experiencing his second taste of fame, but the first on his own terms.

At the turn of the 1990s, Power was a member of another Liverpool quartet, the La's, whose brief period in office embraced one memorable pop tune, *There She Goes*. In those days, he was a non-singing bass

player, but his plans were already percolating.

"Some people may have left a band they're embarrassed by, but the La's were a good band," he says.

"People say 'Did you want to be a front man?' and I say no, but I wanted to write songs, so the bass would be left in the corner and the six-string guitar started getting picked up."

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What Cast will not lack is self belief. "I know how good the songs are," Power says. "I've just got to hedge my bets that you know how good they are."

● Cast's UK tour begins at the Brighton Centre tomorrow. The single *Flying* is released by Polydor on Monday



"You are capable of achieving what's in your mind," says John Power, who must have had success on his

## Voice of frenzy

BREAKING cover with her first new material in two years, the reclusive Polly Jean Harvey recently reunited with her former musical partner John Parish for an album and live work. Even the obtuse artist, she elected to headline four shows at the Fleece & Firkin saloon in her adopted home town instead of a conventional tour. Half the

### POSSUM

Harvey/Parish  
Bristol

London music industry dutifully decamped westward. It was worth it.

Almost immediately the odd couple proceeded to dismember their new album *Dance Hall at Louse Point* with irreverent gusto. Some of these tracks were mauled beyond recognition, stretching each extreme of raucous dissidence and romantic dissolution to breaking point.

Not that this twisted vaudeville pandered to conventional notions of entertainment. Building from the softly twanging lovelorn lament *Rope Bridge Crossing* to the spine-chilling howl of *City of No Sun* and the brooding emotional numbness of *Civil War Correspondent*, Harvey's heady cocktail of hollow-eyed dementia and bluesy despair proved as unsettling as it was spellbinding.

Even serene torch-song interludes such as *Un Cercle Autour du Soleil* were laced with a slithering, unspoken menace. But the singer also showed her playful side by duetting on a ramshackle medley of Serge Gainsbourg compositions with guest Mick Harvey, Nick Cave's long-time sideman. Indeed, if these shows prove anything about the revamped Polly Jean, it is her ever-growing mastery of diverse musical moods.

STEPHEN DALTON

## A man totally untainted by success

How can you release 21 albums of divine songs and still be unknown?

Ed Kuepper, this is no life for you



Cinemascope vision of music.

"No, it wasn't that," Kuepper interjects. "They were just incompetent."

Still, it doesn't show on the finished albums. Everything sounds truly perfect. It's so hard to pick out highlights in a career this long, but

*Sleepyhead* would make the

Top Ten: a simple, finger-picked ode to his sleeping wife which then ignites, as a

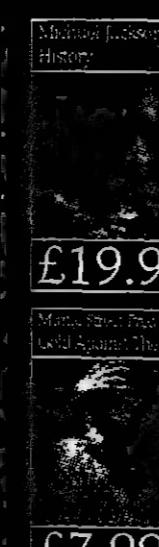
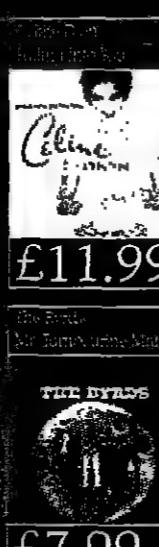
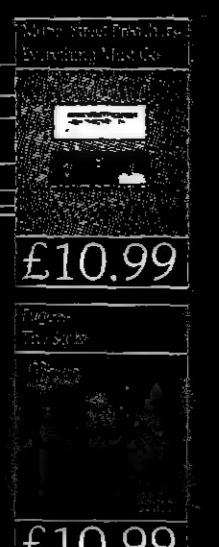
massed choir punches its way into the song: rising fierce like dawn in the tropics. By the chorus your ears are in shock. *Honey Steel's Gold* is still awaiting a name for the genre it invented: a swampy, narcotic haze that seems to be struggling towards heaven with every bar. Then there's the way *Electrical Storm* makes sparks fly from your fingers, and the Crowded House-like joy of *Black Ticket Day*.

If you'd like to wonder at an undiscovered star, and claim it as your own, buy any and all of Ed Kuepper's albums.

● Recommended Ed Kuepper albums: *Honey Steel's Gold*; *Electrical Storm*; *Black Ticket Day*; *Serene Machine*; *Today Wonder* and the current *Frontierland*, all on Hot Records

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## joni mitchell

**joni mitchell hits**



**joni mitchell 111 s**



joni mitchell releases her first ever anthologies.

as the title suggests, "hits" features popular favourites, while "misses" highlights more challenging, yet equally influential work.

both albums represent a wealth of material from an unparalleled career.

## ■ POP 5



The good, the bad, and Yoko: all of life, circa 1968, is on *The Rolling Stones Rock and Roll Circus*

## ■ POP 6



Counting Crows deserve to get the bird for the depressing *Recovering the Satellites*

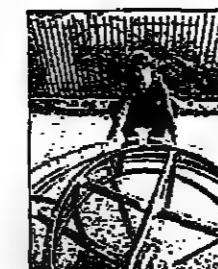
## THE ARTS

## ■ POP 7



... but the reunited Power Station do unexpectedly pull it off on *Living in Fear*

## ■ POP 8



... while the new Irish prodigy, Mundy, makes a big, big impression with *Jelly Legs*

# Dust your ya-yas off (if you can find them)

**POP ALBUMS:** After 28 years the Rock and Roll Circus finally rolls up. David Sinclair reports

VARIOUS ARTISTS  
*The Rolling Stones Rock and Roll Circus*  
(Abkco/London 1268)

WITH just two weeks to go until the "new" Beatles album, *Anthology III*, the pre-Christmas grave-raiding season is already under way. The latest exhumation is *The Rolling Stones Rock and Roll Circus*, an ill-starred event that has passed into pop folklore. Hosted by and featuring the Rolling Stones, the *Circus* was an all-night show which gathered together various luminaries of the Swinging Sixties, including Jethro Tull, The Who, Taj Mahal and Marianne Faithfull. It was filmed for television on December 11, 1968, but unfortunately Mick Jagger felt that the Stones' performance was below par, and neither the soundtrack nor the movie has seen the light of day until now.

You see Jagger's point. *Jumping Jack Flash* is decidedly limp, and *No Expectations* seems to be pitched uncomfortably high for his voice. But by the time they rattle through *Sympathy for the Devil*, it all sounds a lot more respectable.

Before that there is an oddly mixed bag of treats. The Who

rip through their bizarre "mini-opera", *A Quick One While He's Away*, with tremendous gusto, but it still sounds more like a music-hall spoof than a defining moment of the era. Elsewhere, odd moments of brilliance, such as Jethro Tull's performance of *Song for Jeffrey*, are interspersed with the mediocre or downright ghastly; anyone for Yoko Ono squawking her way through a loose jam called *Whole Lotta Yoko*?

Of greatest historical significance is a ragged rendering of the Beatles' *Yer Blues* by the Dirty Mac, a scratch "supergroup" comprising John Lennon, Eric Clapton, Keith Richards and Mitch Mitchell. It is worth investigating, if only to hear the frightful batch they make coming out of the instrumental passage. They may have seemed like gods back then, but with the benefit of hindsight, this sounds only too human, after all.

The world premiere screening of *The Rock and Roll Circus* takes place at the New York Film Festival this weekend; the British premiere is on Tuesday at the Astoria, London WC2. The video is released November 14.

## COUNTING CROWS

*Recovering the Satellites*  
(Geffen/MCA GED 24975)  
IT WAS always going to be tough to follow up the moody genius of their debut album, *August and Everything After*, and while Counting Crows have plainly given it their best shot, *Recovering the Satellites* is nowhere near as good.

Singer and chief songwriter Adam Duritz was never going to turn into Mr Happy-Go-Lucky, but whereas the songs on *August* were leavened by moments of optimism and tunes that tugged at the heartstrings, here most of the numbers are left to simmer slowly in a dark stew of introspection that is too much to digest comfortably.

Besides, how tortured can the life of an average Ameri-

can rock star really be? "I feel like I'm fading away/Like sometimes when I hear myself on the radio," he sings on *Have You Seen Me Late?*, a problem we are all familiar with. While his voice retains its impassioned edge, and the playing is faultless, the album is a rather joyless experience overall.

## TOP TEN ALBUMS

- |                                 |                              |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Natural ...                   | Peter Andre (Mushroom)       |
| 2 K ...                         | Kate Shakes (Columbia)       |
| 3 The Score ...                 | Fugees (Columbia)            |
| 4 Greatest Hits ...             | Simply Red (West West)       |
| 5 Falling Into You ...          | Celine Dion (Epic)           |
| 6 Travelling Without Moving ... | Marvin Gaye (Sony S2)        |
| 7 Jagged Little Pill ...        | Alanis Morissette (Maverick) |
| 8 Sheryl Crow ...               | 2.5 Head Crow (A&M)          |
| 9 Older ...                     | George Michael (Virgin)      |
| 10 Mosley Shoals ...            | Ocean Colour Scene (MCA)     |

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## THE POWER STATION

*Living in Fear*  
(Chrysalis/EMI 8 53984)  
THEY looked alarmingly out of condition on *Top of the Pops* the other night, and you would imagine that, short of a Tin Machine revival, this would be the most uncalled-for reunion in the history of pop. But here it is, and despite the

obvious aesthetic reservations, it rocks. Sticking to the blue-print of their one-off debut of 1985, singer Robert Palmer, guitarist Andy Taylor, drummer Tony Thompson and "new" bass player Bernard Edwards (who died shortly after producing this album) have concocted a similarly uncomfortable combination of bubblegum heavy metal and blue-eyed soul on steroids that will offend connoisseurs of both genres.

*Dope* is as heavy as anything on the current Metallica album, while their cover of the Marvin Gaye standard *Let's Get It On* aspires to the sensitivity of the original. Taken with the requisite pinch of salt, it is actually a lot of fun, and with lyrics such as "What good's a rock without a

roll?/It's a sorry looking donut if it doesn't have a hole", how else can you take it?

## MUNDY

*Jelly Legs*  
(Epic/Sony 486590)  
IS THE world ready for Mundy? Born slouch on a wave of gushing hyperbole, Mundy is a 21-year-old Irish prodigy with a substantial chunk of his record company's future hopefully snuffed in his ragged jeans pocket. His debut album is a stirring compendium of songs, ringing with emotions as big as the guitar sound.

Although prone to rather mannered Bonosisms on heavy set pieces such as *Sisters*, the confessional tone of the lyrics and spiritual cast of the songwriting is closer to early Waterboys albums.

The swing of the new

## JAZZ ALBUMS

**JOSHUA REDMAN**  
*Freedom in the Groove*  
(Warner Bros 9362-46330-2)  
THIS aptly-named recording, comprised entirely of Joshua Redman originals, is a great deal more contemporary-sounding than his previous efforts, which endeared him as much to mainstream fans as to hip young things.

The material ranges from smart, funky, groove-based workouts for both Redman (on soprano and alto as well as tenor) and his front-line partner, guitarist Peter Bernstein, through bluesy shuffles, to more exclusively jazz-based pieces. Redman sounds more relaxed than ever before on record, perhaps because he has clearly set the agenda for this album.

**BRIAN LEMON/ALAN BARNES OCTET**  
*Old Hands - Young Minds*  
(Zephyr Records ZECD12)

CONTEMPORARY British mainstream jazz, whether played by old hands such as pianist Brian Lemon and bassist Dave Green (both featured on this album of standards), or by the plethora of younger talent on display here — co-leader/arranger Alan Barnes, trumpeter Gerard Presencer, vibes player Anthony Kerr and reedsman Andy Panayi and Iain Dixon — is arguably undervalued in this country, and indisputably underrecorded. Zephyr exists to change all that, and this is the latest example of top-class musicianship from the Portsmouth-based label.

With unfussy arrangements, superb soloing (particularly from Barnes) and a rock-solid rhythm section (Clark Tracey on drums, plus either Green or Alec Dankworth on bass), this is straightforward jazz at its best.

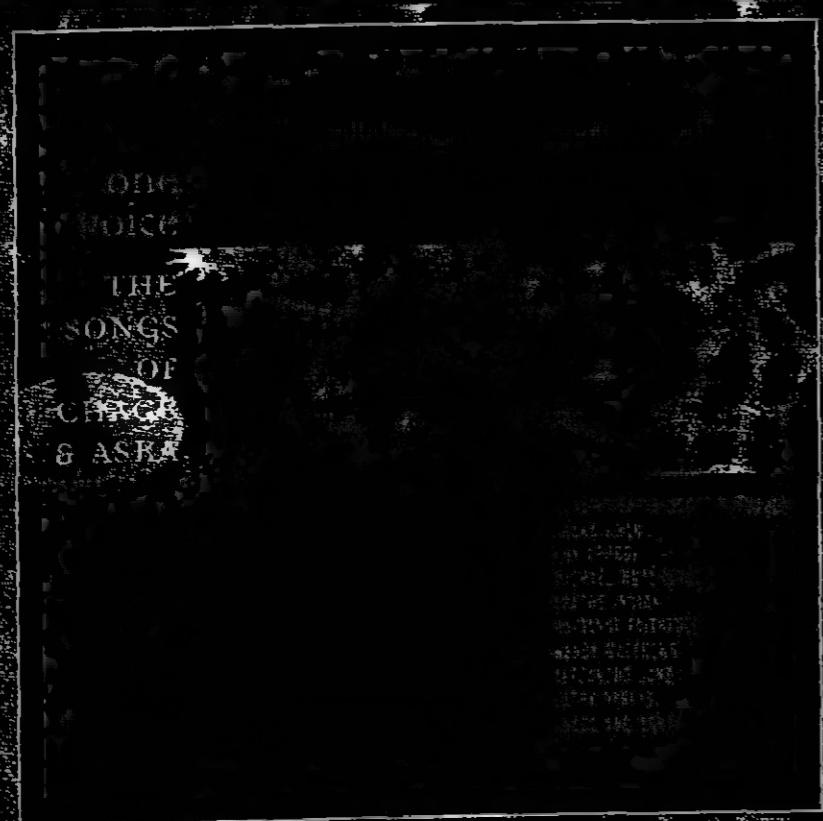
CHRIS PARKER



Twilight of the gods: the Dirty Macs — from left, Eric Clapton, John Lennon, Mitch Mitchell and Keith Richards — prove only too human

EAST MEETS WEST ON...

# ONE VOICE THE SONGS OF CHAGE & ASKA

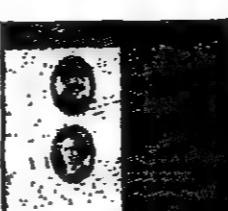


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MAXI PRIEST • CHAKA KHAN  
CATHY DENNIS • BOY GEORGE  
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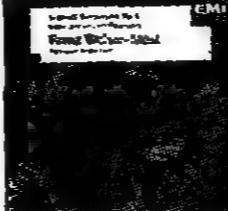
# HMV Gramophone Awards 96 Selection



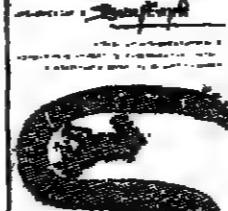
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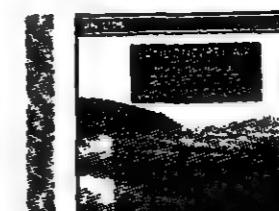
**HAYDN: String Quartets**  
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**GRAINGER:**  
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Choral Category  
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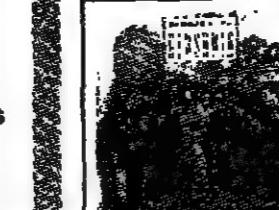
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Ian Bostridge  
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**SCARLATTI: Keyboard Sonatas**  
Mikhail Pletnev  
Virgin Classics VCD941232  
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## ■ FILM

The actor's actor, Martin Landau, turns his skills to *The Adventures of Pinocchio*



## ■ OPERA

Singers on the hoof after the earthquake, San Francisco Opera goes on the road

## THE TIMES ARTS



## ■ RADIO

Have Jenni Murray and the *Woman's Hour* team been unfairly criticised?

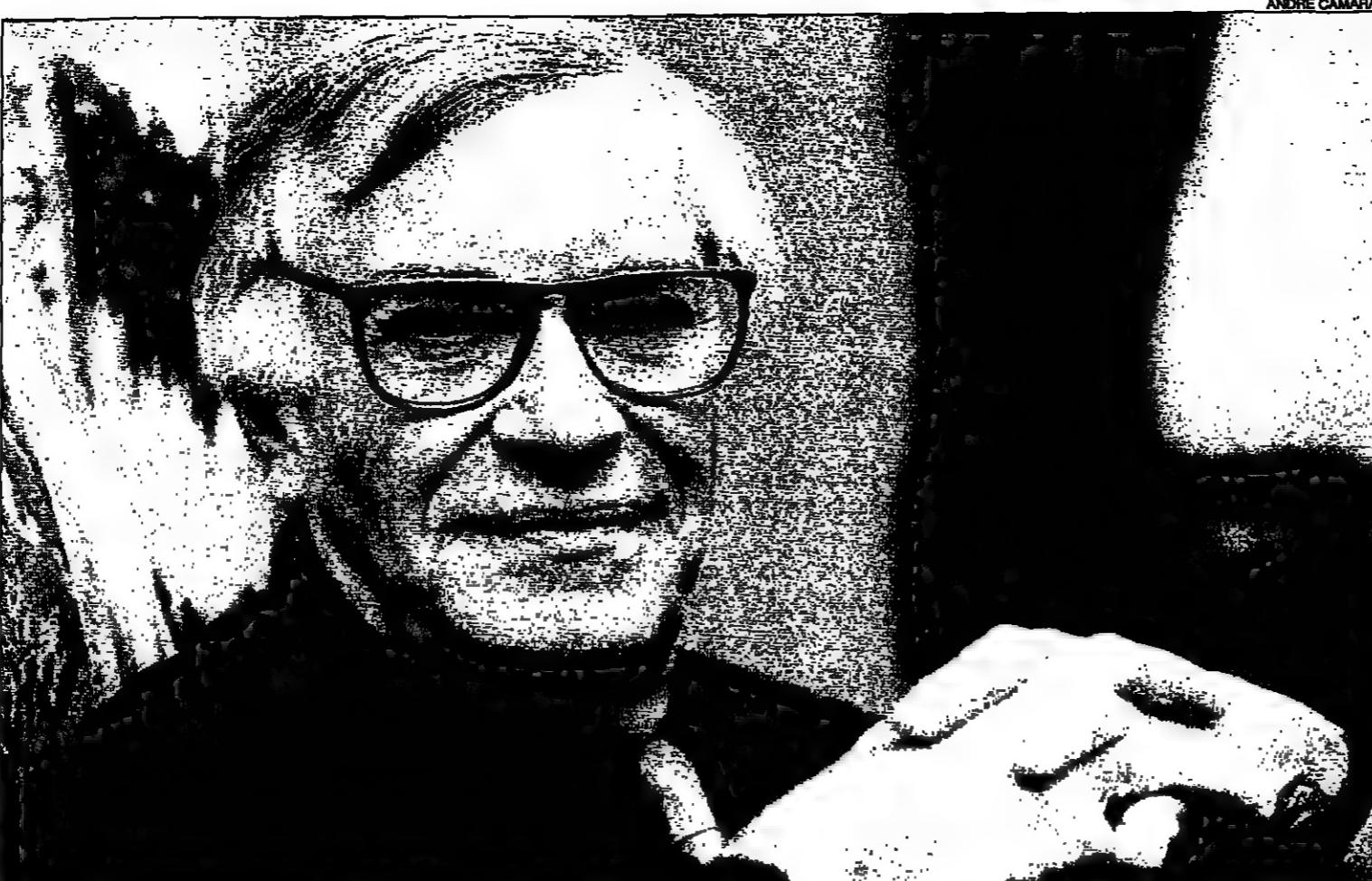


## ■ TOMORROW

Reviews of Manic Street Preachers, and a flamenco rock happening at the Albert Hall

CINEMA: Martin Landau tells Matt Wolf why he always refuses easy options

## Nose to nose with fame again



"What I didn't want was some jolly little sweet Bavarian guy": Martin Landau on his latest role, Geppetto in *The Adventures of Pinocchio*

**T**he severe earthquake that rocked San Francisco in 1989 sent a nasty tremor through one of the city's most venerable arts institutions, its opera company, when engineers said they would need at least a year to repair the damage done to the War Memorial Opera House, the company's stately Beaux Arts home in the city's civic centre.

A virtuous turn, the performance proved that this longtime teacher of actors — Jack Nicholson, Warren Oates and Harry Dean Stanton number among Landau's former students — knows a thing or two about acting himself. His Lugosi dignified the film world's favourite Dracula and found vestiges of grandeur in a milieu otherwise defined by kitsch.

**E**d Wood followed Francis Coppola's *Tucker: The Man and His Dream* and Woody Allen's *Crimes and Misdemeanours* — which brought successive Oscar nominations to Landau in 1988 and 1989 — in forging a career renaissance for the Brooklyn-born actor who remains best-known as the disguise expert from television's *Mission: Impossible* in the Sixties.

Landau trained under Lee Strasberg at the Actors Studio in New York, then went to Hollywood in 1958 to do films such as Hitchcock's *North By Northwest*, only to slide during the Seventies into such less-than-memorable titles as *Black Gunn*, *A Town Called Hell* and *Meteor*.

Small wonder, then, that Landau felt a particular affinity with Lugosi. "I've been very aware of working in crappy movies and bringing some kind of credibility to them; it's not easy," says the sixtiesomething actor, who will not reveal his exact age: "You're only as old as the industry perceives you to be; once they have a number, the thinking stops."

"Geppetto is afraid of commitment, of women, of his own feelings. He's a guy who's stuck, who's too old to change, and by the end he has a family. My whole take was that it's never too late for that to happen if you embrace life, embrace love. But what

Landau makes something quietly poignant of an ageing man's belated discovery of the family he never thought he would have.

"It's a coming of age for Geppetto," Landau says, explaining his attraction to a "live-action *Pinocchio* that would not have been technologically possible even two years ago".

"Geppetto is afraid of commitment, of women, of his own feelings. He's a guy who's stuck, who's too old to change, and by the end he has a family. My whole take was that it's never too late for that to happen if you embrace life, embrace love. But what

I didn't want was some jolly little sweet Bavarian guy."

Despite respectable reviews, *The Adventures of Pinocchio* died in America this summer, a fact that Landau attributes to poor timing. "It was stupid to put the picture out during the Olympics. I kept saying, release it after the summer but before the Christmas rush, but no one listened to me."

If Landau has his way, Hollywood

will be listening to him ever more intently. He is one of five partners in a production company, Silver Street Pictures, backed to the tune of \$250 million and under contract to MGM-UA. Committed to making films at the lower end of the financial spectrum, the company is planning one movie to be directed by Michael Apted (*Coal Miner's Daughter*), with Marcello Mastroianni the hoped-for star, and another written and directed by Landau. Before that, he will be seen opposite Halle Berry as a dying Beverly Hills millionaire in *BAPS*: Ian Richardson plays his butler.

And though he turned down Judd Hirsch's part in *Independence Day* and had no interest in reprising *Mission: Impossible* on the big screen — "that's history," he says bluntly — Landau is clearly pleased once again to be a Hollywood player. Does his career dispel the adage that there are no second acts to American lives?

Landau smiles. "They stopped three-act plays in the United States, but I haven't: I'm on my third act. I always feel like a pincher-hitter waiting to be put up to bat. I really feel that if someone pitched that ball over the plate, I'd hit it out of the ballpark. I knew that and believed it totally."

• *The Adventures of Pinocchio* opens in Britain on Oct 18

CONCERTS: A sixtieth anniversary for Manchester Chamber Concerts Society; Vernon Handley to the rescue

## Happy birthday treats

**T**HE extraordinary thing about the Manchester Chamber Concerts Society is not so much that it has survived for 60 years as that, during all those decades, it has been almost alone in providing high-quality chamber music in this musical city. There was a time when the Royal Northern College of Music had the funds to promote its own international chamber concerts, though on an irregular and erratic basis, and the Music Department of Manchester University has long had a valuable association with the Lindsays. But in its commitment to presenting seasons featuring the best

ensembles, the MCCS has had no rival.

Fortunately, for the sake of full-scale 60th birthday self-indulgence, the Nash Ensemble was available for the opening concert of the new season in the concert hall of the RNCM. It is true that, after a recent change in personnel, the Nash is not entirely recognisable as the ensemble it was. The string quartet element, which was at the heart of the texture of the two major works in the programme, needs to be re-integrated and more decisively led. Conversely, with musicians such as the clarinetist Michael Collins and

the pianist Ian Brown in their most prominent roles, there could be no lack of style or authority in either Mozart's Clarinet Quintet or Dvořák's Piano Quintet. And Prokofiev's *Overture on Jewish Themes*, which has its own wittily exotic way of treating the string quartet in relation to both clarinet and piano, was delightful.

A special item in the performance of the Mozart quintet was the presence of the bass clarinet, which allows the score to be restored to what is believed to be its original form.

GERALD LARNER

WITH Andrew Davis out of action for several weeks, the BBC Symphony Orchestra was already indebted to Vernon Handley for taking over two concerts in its Walton series. Wednesday night's Festival Hall concert, with its taxing programme of Walton's Symphony No 1, Tippett's Piano Concerto and a work by Judith Weir, might never have happened after a road accident involving Handley that morning. But, true professional that he is, he went on with the show.

The Walton was as lively and incisive a performance as one could wish to hear. A high-octane account of the first movement emphasised its underlying tensions, highlighting the accents and revelling in the biting dissonances, with the result that

## Walton at his liveliest

the triumphal major-tonality code emerged as a hard-won victory. There was no let-up in the energy generated in the scherzo, all the more effective for the orchestra's precise ensemble.

The slow movement was mellow rather than tragic but the force of Walton's characteristic dissonances rose to considerable heights.

Judith Weir's *Moon and Star* — the title refers to an Emily Dickinson poem — was

first heard at last year's Proms. It was good to hear this attractive work again and the BBC Singers managed to suggest both a sense of galactic perspective and the wry humour that the composer finds in the poet's work.

A large part of the score proceeds in phrases of two or three bars but it is a tribute to the sweep of inspiration that the interest never flags.

Something of that sonority was recalled in the Tippett concerto, with its prominent part for celesta (played by Elizabeth Burley). Classical lightness and lyricism are central to the work, though there are also big-boned Romantic gestures, to which Peter Donohoe did full justice.

BARRY MILLINGTON

## Women behaving perfectly

**T**HE BBC is holding anniversary parties all over the airwaves to celebrate the rebirth of peacetime broadcasting in 1946. I try to avoid the predictable path of commenting on these landmarks, but I cannot ignore the 50th birthday of *Woman's Hour* (Radio 4).

"USE ROLLER BLADES OR A HELICOPTER - JUST GET THERE!"

If the BBC had taken any notice of me, *Woman's Hour* would have died, aged 49. Last year I advocated that, although the issues in the programme certainly ought to be aired, the era of a single programme aimed at women had passed. A senior BBC executive told me at the time: "We'll get rid of it if you'll come to Broadcasting House and announce it. But wear a bullet-proof vest."

What this meant was that the *Woman's Hour* editors, Sally Feldman and Clare Seville, and its presenter, Jenni Murray, are not to be trifled with. It was hard enough to get the programme shifted from afternoon to morning five years ago.

But on this occasion I come to praise *Woman's Hour*, not

to bury it. I am mystified by some of the criticism levelled at the programme, particularly the argument that purrs a "feminist agenda".

On Monday, anniversary day, the programme assembled several well-known women, also aged 50, to take part in a quiz. This was an informative quiz, and its most informative aspect was that it proved *Woman's Hour* has always pursued a feminist agenda (in the broadest sense), since long before Germaine Greer swept over the horizon.

The reason for pursuing this agenda is that somebody had to and nobody else would. The notion that the programme discovered certain women's

issues in the Sixties is nonsense. In the late Forties and early Fifties it featured domestic violence, equal pay, the plight of the divorcee and the menopause.

And no wonder. Edwina Currie recalled in Monday's programme how as a young woman she needed her father's signature in order to open a bank account. This was still true in the Seventies. In the same decade, a single woman whose father happened to have died could not get a mortgage at all.

The core criticism of those who oppose the *Woman's Hour* agenda concerns the fact that it is little concerned with "housewives". But neither my wife, who chooses not to have a paid job at present, nor several other women in the same position have told me they wish *Woman's Hour* was about bringing up babies: they would consider that an insult.

I still think *Woman's Hour* has the wrong name, but there is nothing wrong with the content unless you are predisposed to compartmentalise women, and therefore men. Which reminds me that I missed the last 20 minutes of Monday's show. I had to vacuum the house before my wife returned from her aromatherapy massage.

PETER BARNARD

"A must see... beautifully written, superbly played... cinema at its best." THE FACE

"Magnificent" ALICEBOO Magazine

"One of the few really great movies this year." Anglo Edge PREMIERE

"Powerful." THE GUARDIAN

"Terrific... unforgettable... outstanding..." KIM NOVAK CINEMAS

★★★★★

RENOIR RICHMOND FILMHOUSE CASTLEFORD

RITZY RICHMOND FILMHOUSE CASTLEFORD

ROTHORN RICHMOND FILMHOUSE CASTLEFORD

ROTUNDO RICHMOND FILMHOUSE CASTLEFORD

STARS RICHMOND FILMHOUSE CASTLEFORD

THEATRE RICHMOND FILMHOUSE CASTLEFORD

THEATRE



# Kid Glove's interception gives Yankees the edge

The Baltimore Orioles were expecting a hostile reception in Yankee Stadium on Wednesday night but not in their worst nightmares could they have foreseen the influence the New York Yankees supporters would have on the opening game of the best-of-seven American League championship series.

The Orioles lost, 5-4, in the eleventh inning of a game of high drama, but the decisive play came not from one of the many Yankees stars but from a 12-year-old schoolboy sitting in the right field seats. In the bottom of the eighth inning, with the Orioles clinging tenaciously to a 4-3 lead, Derek Jeter, the Yankees shortstop, launched what seemed to be a routine flyball high into right field.

As the ball dropped, the Orioles outfielder, Tony Tarasco, ran under it, ready to make the simple catch that would preserve his team's lead. He reckoned without Jeff Maier, of Tappan, New Jersey, who was sitting in the stand above. Maier reached out, caught the ball just above Tarasco's outstretched glove and the umpire signalled home run.

Maier, a Little League pitcher dubbed "Kid Glove" by the *New York Daily News* yesterday, said that he thought the ball was going out and he had a right to catch it. "I didn't think it would happen to me."

Alomar escaped immediate pun-

**Keith Blackmore reports**  
on the furore sparked by  
a Little League pitcher's  
timely contribution to a  
baseball play-off series

ishment on a technicality but he was subjected to a vicious media assault in New York, where even the mayor asked supporters to turn their backs on the game when the player came to bat.

They did that and more, showering the field with boos when Alomar came into the game and the abuse clearly had some effect since he managed only one hit in six at bats and made a crucial and uncharacteristic fielding error.

Events were less fevered in Atlanta, where the Atlanta Braves, the World Series champions, began their National League championship series by overcoming the St Louis Cardinals 4-2 behind John Smoltz, the outstanding pitcher in either league this year.

Smoltz gave up only five hits all night and took his post-season record to two wins, no defeats, having already won 24 games during the regular season. The Braves have now won all four of their play-off games, having swept the Los Angeles Dodgers 3-0 in the divisional series. In a tight game on Wednesday, the decisive hit came from the Braves catcher, Javy Lopez, whose single in the eighth inning drove in two runs.

The two championship series

continued last night before moving to Baltimore and St Louis tomorrow for the next three games.

Maier should have known better than to expect much help from the umpires who are still simmering over an incident two weeks ago when Roberto Alomar, the Baltimore second baseman, spat on umpire John Hirschbeck, then insulted him.

Alomar escaped immediate pun-



Maier sweeps the ball from the outstretched glove of the right fielder, Tarasco... Johnson, the Orioles coach, berates umpire Garcia for calling a home run and is ejected... the game is up for Maier, who is led away. Photographs: AP

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CHANGING TIMES

## RUGBY LEAGUE

### Selection problems for Larder

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

PARADISE is already a distant memory for Great Britain. New Zealand was always going to require a change of pace and, with minds obviously still back in Papua New Guinea and Fiji, the touring party had a rude awakening when they were held 22-22 by a Lion Red Cup XIII at Carlaw Park, Auckland, yesterday.

Phil Larder, the Britain coach, fielded the side that he had in mind for the first of three internationals against New Zealand, but, after a worryingly mis-shaped performance, he must be considering changes.

Britain made things tough for themselves against a composite side from the New Zealand domestic competition. A President's XIII, largely drawn from Auckland Warriors, is expected to provide an even sterner examination in Wellington next Tuesday, three days before the first international, in Auckland, which leaves Larder with a selection dilemma.

The Lion Red Cup XIII led for most of the match and were denied a late victory when a dropped-goal attempt by David Bailey struck a post. After hauling themselves back, Britain, too, could have won in injury time, but their celebrations as Anthony Sullivan went over at the corner were premature as there had been a forward pass.

Sullivan gave Britain an early lead after the first of five goals for Lion Red Cup by Ben Lythe. After tries by Tukere Barlow and Jonathan Hughes, Britain trailed 14-4, before an 85-metre solo score by Stuart Spruce.

Britain conceded a further try, to Gus Malietoa-Brown, early in the second half, but briefly led 22-20 after Jestyn Harris converted tries by Keiron Cunningham and Daryl Powell. Lythe's penalty, in the 68th minute, tied the contest. "I thought we played very badly," Larder said. "We made it tough for ourselves by dumb football."

In the opening match of their tour, on the same ground, Great Britain Academy showed the spirit that the senior side lacked in beating Auckland Under-19s 48-16.

**SCORERS:** Lion Red Cup XIII: Tries: Ben Lythe, Hughes, Malietoa-Brown, G. Brown, Spruce, Cunningham; Penalties: Harris (3).

□ Robbie Paul of Bradford Bulls, who is playing rugby union, on loan, for Harlequins until January, has asked Will Carling, the former England captain, to join him playing rugby league next summer. Bradford's deal with Harlequins allows for a player to return on an exchange loan.

## SQUASH

### Jackman aims for double top

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN  
IN PETALING JAYA  
MALAYSIA

CASSANDRA JACKMAN emerged yesterday as — potentially — the first women's world junior squash champion to add the senior equivalent to her list of honours. The 33-minute 9-3, 9-5, 9-0 defeat she inflicted on Claire Nitch, of South Africa, in the third round of the Perrier Women's World Open championship here, was of a class she has rarely achieved in five years of top competition since she took the junior title.

"I was pleased with that finish," Jackman, 23, said after she wrapped up her win with a final, three-minute game of penetrating power and accuracy. "I could hardly wait to get here and now I'm really beginning to enjoy it. I have never played that well against Claire before. She is a really tricky player and I always have trouble with her."

Jackman meets Sabine Schone, of Germany, another player with whom she has had trouble in the past, in the quarter-finals today. She lost to her in the 1993 World Open quarter-finals in Johannesburg and only just escaped a mid-match collapse during their encounter in the 1991 world junior final.

However, the young German stuttered against Leilani Marsh, of New Zealand, yesterday and it is hard to see her denying Jackman in the sort of fluent form she showed against Nitch. Another meeting with Michelle Martin, to whom Jackman lost in the semi-finals last year and the final of the 1994 World Open in Guernsey, beckons.

Martin, the defending champion, ended the 24 hours of fame enjoyed by Traces Shenton, the British junior champion, after her second-round win over the Rebecca Macree, the No 13 seed. It took Martin 14 minutes, and a single lost rally, to reach a quarter-final against Liz King, the No 5 seed.

In the bottom half of the draw, Sue Wright, of Kent, defeated Fiona Geaves, 6-0, 9-2, 9-1, 4-0 in 42 minutes to reach a quarter-final against Suzanne Horner. The 33-year-old British champion, from Yorkshire, looked rather more laboured in beating a young Australian, Robyn Cooper, 9-6, 4-9, 10-9, 0-4 over 90 minutes.

The other quarter-final in the bottom half of the draw is an all-Australian affair between the No 2 seed, Sarah Fitzgerald, and Carol Owens, the No 6 seed, who yesterday put out Linda Charman, of Sussex, 9-4, 9-1, 9-5 in 36 minutes.

Results, page 40

## TODAY'S FIXTURES

### FOOTBALL

Non-league  
National League  
First division  
Norwich City v Ipswich Town

Second division  
Bradford City v York City

Uefa under-18 championship  
Qualifying round  
England v Finland  
1st York City FC, 7.30

FA CUP: Dundalk v St Patrick's Athletic

HARP LAGER NATIONAL  
LEAGUE: Premier division: Bohemians v Dundalk; Shelbourne v St Patrick's Athletic

### OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League:  
London v Thames Valley 18.01

BOXING: Commonwealth (quarter-final)  
John Lewis (Ireland) v Simon O'Connor (Ireland)  
1st (at the London Hilton)

GOLF: Alfred Dunhill Cup: 10.01  
Andrews

ICE HOCKEY: European Cup: Sheffield v CIA Helo Jaca (8.0)

SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Belfast v Ipswich (7.30); Oxford v Reading

17.30; Peterborough v Elyer Conference League: Arena Essex v Reading (8.0)

TENNIS: LTA satellite tournament in Sheffield

ROWING: OLYMPIC MEDAL-WINNER SETS OUT ON SOLO VOYAGE TOWARDS SYDNEY GAMES

## Searle develops taste for single life

The taller, darker half of one of the most popular partnerships in sport folds his 6ft 5in frame round the smallest restaurant table in London and talks of the future. Greg Searle is going solo, leaving his straggly-haired brother Jonny, with whom he won gold in Barcelona and bronze in Atlanta in the coxed four, to fend for himself and is heading for the mystical world of the single sculler where hard men, loners and loonies lurk.

Not, on the face of it, the gregarious Searle's sort of place. But the natural break-up of the Atlanta four — the Searles back to their professions, Obholzer to practise medicine in Namibia and Foster, the eternal student, up to Oxford — and the competitive urge common to all great oarsmen to cut out all variables, to have no one to blame but themselves, has led Searle into a radical change in his search for gold in Sydney. Inside the sport, single sculls is recognised as the toughest discipline of all. "It's like the 100 metres," Searle said. "If you can do it, you do it; if not, you do something else." Steve Redgrave tried it and failed.

Searle says the decision not to row with his brother again was almost unspoken. Both sensed it was going to happen. After that, the thinking was easy. "If I'm not going to row with Jonny, I'd rather not row with anyone," he said. "But it will be a big wrench not to have him with me."

Searle's ability to cope physically with the demands of a solo career is unquestioned. He holds the world record ergometer score [indoor rowing] — 5min 44.1sec for 2,000 metres. Mentally, his endurance will be tested over the next few years. Scullers love their own company; he thrives on good company.

"What worries me is the solitariness," he said. "I like the teamwork in a pair or a four, the reliance on other people and the special relationships you build up with the other members of the crew, Jonny in particular. But single sculls is not some magical artoform, it's just rowing in a different beat."

No longer perhaps than adjusting to the wide world again after Olympic myopia. Getting to work on time, mending the doorbell, getting married. All of life's petty concerns. "You put your whole

ANDREW LONGMORE



life on hold, your job, your relationship, everything is frozen for months for just one day of sporting activity. Then suddenly it's all finished and you have to pick up the pieces again," Searle said. He is doing better than most.

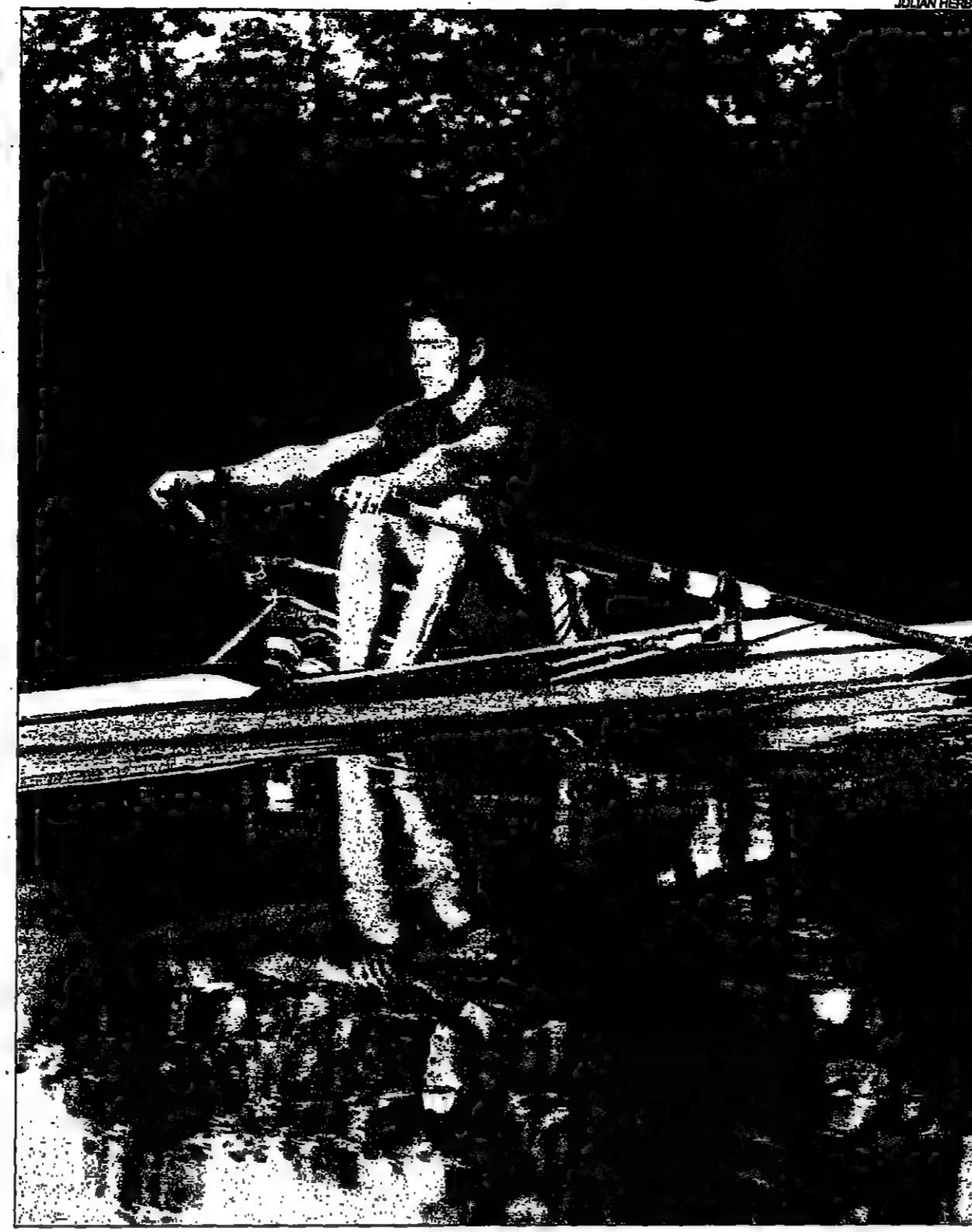
He is back working for Gerald Eve, a firm of chartered surveyors, measuring buildings and wondering whether he should resit his exams. He is also about to remove himself from the list of the country's 50 most eligible bachelors after becoming engaged. Real life is back on track, but the disappointment of Atlanta still lingers. Bronze was a poor return for all that time and talent.

"I thought we were capable of winning, but I have to take my hat off to the Australians because they did what we did only better. They hardly won anything for four years then came out and won gold."

Their defeat — they call it that — has been well documented. Less well publicised was an incident on the highly-charged eve of the Olympic finals that saw two of Britain's rowing elite standing toe-to-toe and eyeballing each other like boxers before the first bell.

"It was just a silly thing," Searle said. "I had picked up some letters for Steve [Redgrave] which had come to our old base at the Olympic village instead of our hotel, but I forgot to pass them on for a day or so."

Then, on the evening before the finals, we were all out in the little garden at the hotel doing some warm-up exercises and I told Steve I had some mail for him, upstairs. He wasn't too happy I'd kept it for so long. I walked away, but Jonny wouldn't have it.



JULIAN HERBERT

Searle, who no longer rows with his brother, trains in his single scull on the Thames, near Hampton Court

The two of them stood about a foot apart just staring at each other. Through the gap between them I could see the look of astonishment on the faces of some of the hotel guests. To add to the comic touch, a French lady wan-

dered in to the middle of it all wanting an autograph. "I had to tell her politely this was not quite the right moment."

Redgrave, 6ft 5in and 22st v Jonny Searle, 6ft 4in, 20st. You could have sold tickets for it. Luckily for Britain's medal

tally, the moment dissolved peacefully. "There were no hard feelings the next day," Searle said. "We congratulated Steve and Matt on their gold and they commiserated with us on our bronze."

The old teams are breaking

clearly affected in the Pan-Am tournament last month.

The IRFB believes that some club contracts are contrary to their regulations and the Rugby Football Union and the Welsh Rugby Union have been asked for their findings within three weeks. "For the first time the IRFB has started to look closely at sanctioning and it's not always easy," Vernon Pugh, the board chairman, said. "It may well be the start of a new attitude in how we run our affairs."

The board has also agreed that substitutes, rather than replacements, may be used in international and senior matches from November 4. Before, players could only be replaced on medical grounds, although tactical substitution is commonplace in France and is sometimes tacitly assumed in the southern hemisphere. The board has also outlawed, on safety grounds, adding players to an eight-man scrum to secure a pushover try.

Meanwhile, the Heineken Cup, which kicks off tomorrow, has secured at least some terrestrial television coverage: BBC Wales will show matches up to and including the final and other BBC regions are expected to take similar interest after the withdrawal, a fortnight ago, of ITV.

## New role for Ponsford

WOMEN'S rugby, one of the game's greatest growth areas over the last decade, gained its first professional administrator yesterday when Nicky Ponsford was appointed development officer by the Rugby Football Union for Women (RFUW) (David Hands writes). The appointment of the Saracens and England hooker is believed to be the first of its kind in the world.

Ponsford, who fulfilled a similar role for the Welsh Yachting Association, will be based at the De Montfort University, Bedford. The creation of the post has been made possible by a Sports Council grant of £45,000 for each of the next four years, and Ponsford, 29, will be able to tap into the technical and

material resources available from the Rugby Football Union.

"My aim is to bridge the gap between mini and senior rugby and improve opportunities for girls," she said.



Ponsford: first professional

group, but Dutch ice hockey is in the doldrums, so Tilburg Trappers are unlikely to be as strong as they were then. Spain has never been much of a power in the sport and the Romanians have had financial problems recently.

Last year, the Steelers travelled to Tilburg, in Holland, at the same stage of the competition and finished second in the group.

There will be two games each day with the Steelers playing each evening.

ICE HOCKEY: STEELERS EXPECTED TO SLIP SMOOTHLY INTO NEXT STAGE

## Sheffield to benefit from home advantage

SHEFFIELD Steelers have this weekend off from the Superleague to host group C of the European Cup and, although Manchester Storm have struggled in the newly-formed European League, are firm favourites to progress to the next stage of the older cup competition (Norman de Mesquita writes).

They face the champions of Spain (tonight), Holland (tomorrow) and Romania (on Sunday) and, with a strengthened squad and home advantage, are expected to succeed.

Last year, the Steelers travelled to Tilburg, in Holland, at the same stage of the competition and finished second in the

### BOXING

## McMillan set to act over title decision

COLIN McMILLAN, the No 1 contender for the Commonwealth featherweight championship, will take legal action if the Commonwealth Boxing Council recognises the winner of the bout between Jonjo Irwin, of Doncaster, and Smith Odoom, of Ghana, at the Hilton Hotel, London, tonight as the Commonwealth champion (Srikanth Sen writes).

McMillan's solicitors have written to the Council pointing out that the boxer had the right to be one of the challengers for the vacant title as he had won the final eliminator and also beaten Irwin earlier this year.

Panix McMillan's promoters said: "We have been advised that the action by the Commonwealth Committee is unacceptable and in breach of an agreement already approved by the Committee. We trust that it will rectify the position and allow McMillan to get on with fighting in the ring instead of fighting in the courts."

Panix McMillan's promoters said: "If the Commonwealth Committee does not listen, it will be treating McMillan in the same way the WBC treated Lennox Lewis after he won his final eliminator against Lionel Butler."

McMillan said he did not seek an injunction against the bout at the Hilton as he did not want to hurt a fellow boxer but he expected the Commonwealth Committee to declare the bout a final eliminator. Simon Block, the secretary of the Commonwealth Council, said, however, that the contest would go ahead as a title bout.

Teach, teach, teach, teach,  
teach, teach, teach, teach.

Wouldn't it be nice to learn something for a change?

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Last week I discussed opening leads against No-Trump contracts, and I pointed out that "fourth highest of your longest and strongest" is a good rule of thumb. However, if your partner has bid, and you want to keep him happy, lead his suit. This applies particularly if he has overcalled (rather than opened). You need a compelling reason to lead anything else. There is little more annoying than to have made a risky overcall that could have gone for a large penalty just to indicate a good lead, only to find that your partner attacks somewhere else.

Consider your lead on these two hands after this bidding:

S	W	N	E
—	—	1H	1S
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	All Pass
(1) ♦6 752	(2) ♠74 8743		
♦K 10 873	♦Q 982		
♦Q 762	972		

Without the overcall, you would lead a diamond from either of these hands. After your partner has bid One Spade, it is clear to lead a spade — your partner's suit will be at least as good as yours, and he is likely to have some outside strength as well. If you have an honour and two or more small cards in his suit, always lead small, NOT the honour. I will explain why in a future refresher.

Sometimes, partner will not have bid, but you will know that he has good values because you have such a bad hand. The bidding goes:

S	W	N	E
—	—	1H	Pass
1 NT	Pass	3 NT	All Pass

There is a theory that, when you hold a bad hand, you should try to find your partner's suit, although I think it is overdone. What would you lead from these two hands?

(3) ♣A 9 7 5 4	(4) ♦6 5
♦E 5	♦8 7 5 3
♦8 6 3	♦7 0 9 3
♦8 7 5	♦8 7 5

The opponents presumably have 25 or 26 points between them, so you know partner has 13 or 14. Some would say that, on hand (3), you should lead a minor, hoping to find him at home there. I think that you should still try a spade — the best chance is to find your partner with four of the suit, or a holding like K Q x over dummy's A x.

With Hand (4), you know that he has shortage in hearts and so yet could not make a take-out double or overcall One Spade. So he is likely to have length in one of the minors. As between clubs and diamonds, try the ten of diamonds — your slight extra strength there tips the balance.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ACCAROID  
a. A gum  
b. Without care  
c. An ear infection

EXCLAVE  
a. An outpost  
b. An organ stop  
c. The middle vertebra

Answers on page 46

CATANANCHE  
a. A trapper's canoe  
b. A yellow herb  
c. A contraceptive

EMMENTAL  
a. An artificial language  
b. An Alpine plant  
c. A cheese

## KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

### Julius Silverman

Julius Silverman, the former Labour MP and barrister, died on September 21, aged 90. Last month, his Times obituary pointed out that Silverman's favourite recreation was playing chess and that he was reputed to be the champion at chess in the House of Commons.

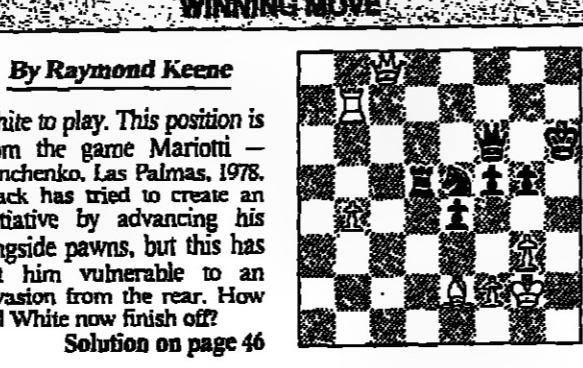
This brief mention of Silverman's skill at chess does not do full justice to him. He played not just at social and club level but also at international standard, competing, for example, in the Birmingham international tournament of 1937, where several of the players were of grandmaster or master standard.

Silverman was an aggressive and sacrificial player and reports of the day said of his queen sacrifice against Elisakases, the Austrian grandmaster: "Silverman got the better game against Elisakases, and in a tricky position where mate was possible in two ways, the latter allowed only for the more obvious variation, and a mate in three with a queen sacrifice was brought off."

### Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available now from bookshops or from B.T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.



### Diagram of final position

After 20...Kxh7; 21.Rh4 is checkmate.

One of the fascinating things about the above game was Silverman's choice of opening, the romantic King's Gambit. This reached its heyday in the 1850s, being used, for example, in the so-called "Immortal Game" between Anderssen and Kieseritsky, played in London in 1851.

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## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Mariotti — Panchenko, Las Palmas, 1978. Black has tried to create an initiative by advancing his kingside pawns, but this has left him vulnerable to an invasion from the rear. How did White now finish off?

Solution on page 46

Delve into T



Wai  
out of  
farce

Villeneuve: refuses to adopt questionable tactics

**SAILING****British crew get off to flying start in Europe**By EDWARD GORIANI  
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

**J**OHN MERRICKS and Ian Walker made a sparkling start to the Glenfiddich Melges 24 European Gold Cup yesterday with a convincing win in the first race and a second place in race two, giving them a comfortable overnight lead of 15 points.

The pairing, who are sailing with two of Russell Peters' Ultra 20 crew, Nick Powell and Mark Tomson, have underlined their potency in what, for them, is the new world of keelboat racing, and are now in a good position to win the championship, taking place off Barcelona.

In the first race, Britain's Olympic silver medal-winners in the 470 class started with most of the rest of the 47-strong fleet in a scrum at the pin end and emerged at the weather mark in fourth place. By the second lap, they had taken Glenfiddich 3' into the lead and eventually won by over a minute from Javier Carratala Sabater, of Spain, on Garvalin IV with Keith Muson, on Hooked on Speed, in third.

In race two, Merricks and Walker looked in danger of being squeezed out with under a minute to go. But a gap opened up for them just in time and they slotted in underneath the committee boat and immediately to windward of Giorgio Zuccoli, the defending European champion, from Italy.

Merrick was the first to tack into port and was away in clear air. At the weather mark, Merricks was in second, 30 seconds behind Luis Martinez Doreste, of Spain.

There was then a fascinating duel between the two crews. Merricks and Walker caught up and then overtook the Spaniard at the leeward gate to be over one minute ahead. But going upwind for the last time Doreste, on Garvalin III, found more speed in the failing breeze and overtook to win by nearly 1½ minutes.

Doreste is second overall with the Norwegian Ole Peter Pollen, on Frem 1 third. The best of the remaining 21-strong British contingent is Ian Southworth, on Accasta, who is fifth overall with Musto sixth and David Shattock on Spot On seventh.

Mike Golding, on Group 4, continues to lead the BT Global Challenge fleet as the yacht heads south towards the Cape Verde Islands. He has a 16-mile advantage over Chris Tibbs, on Concert, with some 2,881 miles still to go to the finish of the first leg in Rio de Janeiro. Among recent dramas are a bad broach for Save the Children, skippered by Andy Hindley, which resulted in the loss of a spinaker, and a collision with a shark by Ocean Rover.

BT Global chart, page 46

**T**he child in the fairground opposite the pit here had just slipped a small coin into the machine when the crowd surged forward towards Jacques Villeneuve. A parental hand dragged her into the mêlée to get a sight of the young French-Canadian, just as a cluster of paper butterflies exploded into the glass bowl she had been staring at and began battering themselves against its sides.

Villeneuve pressed on unruffled, past the big wheel that dominates the skyline, past the screaming passengers on a corkscrew ride and the people strapped on a ledge that hurled them up a tower and rocketed them down again. He was beginning the biggest weekend of his motor racing career as a fairground attraction, surrounded by sinister B-movie hints about life in the fast lane of Formula One.

Villeneuve needs to win the Japanese Grand Prix here on Sunday, in this wasteland of chemical plants and car factories south of

the city of Nagoya, to have any chance of prising the world championship from his Williams-Renault team-mate, Damon Hill. Even then, Hill must finish outside the top six to hand the title to his young protégé.

In the circumstances Villeneuve, a graduate of the no-holds-barred IndyCar series, might have been expected to try everything he knew — every psychological tactic, every underhand play at his disposal — to try to unsettle Hill.

Instead, Villeneuve, who has had great credit in his first season in Formula One with his studied courtesy, his habit of conducting press conferences in French, English and Italian, and by staying until the last question has been answered, has rigidly refused to stray from the path that leads to an amicable relationship with the Briton.

Even on this weekend, when everything is at stake, he said yesterday — after he had fought his way to the paddock through the

city of Nagoya, to have any chance of prising the world championship from his Williams-Renault team-mate, Damon Hill. Even then, Hill must finish outside the top six to hand the title to his young protégé.

hordes of followers, only to be mobbed again by the media, who pinned him against some packing cases — that there would be no deviation from those tactics.

"There are many ways to exert pressure on Damon," Villeneuve said, "but I don't think off-the-track pressure is a good one to use. I don't think that is very fair, so that is not a route I will take. All we can do is be quick and see what happens to Damon."

"If I had wanted to play psychological games, I would have started a few races ago, but it is not something to be proud of. It is not worth using a tactic that makes you happy if you win for one week, because what remains in your mind is the way that you did it. On paper it looks great, but . . ."

"If anything, the relationship between Damon and I has been

better towards the end of the season. There has never been any problem between us. There is a good respect. There have always been good battles on the race track between us and the best battles happen when there is no hate. If you hate someone when you race against them, you will just make mistakes. Your thinking will be clouded."

Villeneuve admitted that his chances of snatching the title from Hill were slim. He said that there was less pressure on him than on Hill because Hill had more to lose, but he even gave his rival some advice on how to make the championship safe.

"I know what I would do in his shoes," Villeneuve said. "The one thing that you do not want to do is push like an idiot. But at the same time, you do not want to be fighting

against other people. You do not want to be in the midst of other battles. You have to judge it once you are in the race. If you have had a bad start, you need to get clear of battles straightaway."

"I just have to try to get pole position, get away cleanly at the start and hope that there is some mayhem going on behind me. There is a lot at stake, but there is not much I can do. He [Hill] has got more to lose and I have got nothing to lose. Now that I have got so close to the title, it would be a disappointment to lose it on Sunday, but overall it has been a very positive first season for me, so I will be happy anyway."

Hill is unlikely to heed Villeneuve's advice, but he did admit yesterday that he was in a quandary about how to approach the race, whether to attempt to win the championship in a blaze of glory by scoring his eighth victory of the season, or to be more conservative and ensure fin-

ishing among the points. "Right now, I haven't made up my mind what I'm going to do," Hill said.

"I'm a racing driver and I want to win the race. There would be no better way of winning the championship than by winning the race. That would be the perfect result, the perfect end. In some ways, there is more to be said for that. It would be tempting to do that."

"Purely from a racing satisfaction point of view, that is what I like doing best. Going for the win is the most enjoyable way to drive, but the bigger prize is the world championship. I have a greater responsibility to that than another race win."

"I cannot deny, though, that there is something inside me that likes to silence critics, and I do like to prove myself. I don't like anyone taking anything away from my achievements, so to win the race would mean that there was no way anyone could take anything away from my championship. It would just be nice to do it completely."

**Bill Elliott on a golfer forced to tee up against doctors' orders****Allenby aims to revive fortune by beating the cruellest cut**

**R**obert Allenby is preparing to grimace and then to strike the most richly rewarded single shot in golf this year if he is forced to tee up his ball at the Volvo Masters in a fortnight's time.

In theory, the Australian golfer can gently poke his ball forward off the 1st tee at Valderrama with a putter, retire hurt immediately and still collect around £125,000 for his day's work. If nothing else, this should at least put a smile back on his face.

Ironically this farcical situation, which, if it happens, will throw a dark cloud over a tournament that is carefully designed to provide a glittering and sunny climax to the European season, comes about because of a car crash involving Allenby just a few miles up the road on the Costa del Sol.

It is three weeks since the 25-year-old suffered a broken breast bone, cuts and bruises after his car struck a bollard. After receiving treatment in hospital he flew back to England in an air ambulance and is now recuperating at home in Melbourne.

"I'm very lucky to be alive," he said at the time. "Now my health must come before my golf and so my first priority is to recover fully and get fit again."

It is a crash that threatens to cost Allenby, a winner on the PGA European Tour three times in 1996, considerably more than a no-claims bonus. Lying third in the Volvo rankings with £456,803 prize-money, he is on course to earn an end-of-season bonus worth £73,000.

However, in order to qualify for his enviable share of the bonus pool, Allenby must play in the

**'If he now chooses to hit just one shot that's up to him'**

Masters, despite medical advice to the contrary.

A further financial twist is added because if Allenby does not play in Spain then he will almost certainly be overtaken on the ranking list and forfeit at least another £50,000, which would be paid by his own sponsors for finishing the year in Europe's top three.

It's a unique situation but the rules are specific and they state that for a player to earn his bonus he simply has to play," Andrew Ramsey, Allenby's manager, said.

"Robert believes very strongly that after three victories in Europe this year, and having committed himself to the European Tour again in 1997, that he is entitled to this bonus so I have re-entered him for the Volvo Masters.

"He can walk around OK at present but he has been told by doctors not to touch a golf club and his earliest return to tournament play was originally set for the Australian Open at the end of November."

Allenby's case was discussed by the Tour players' committee last weekend but, though sympathetic, his colleagues decided against popping a cheque in the post. "It's tough but the rules are very clear and he cannot be made an exception. If he now chooses to turn up and just hit one shot that's up to him," one committee member said.

With so much money at stake, this appears to be exactly what the Australian is contemplating. At least he will not need to suffer through practice. After all, hitting a ball off a tee with a putter is a task well within the compass of even the most lacklustre of weekend hackers. Never mind a golfer ranked the 31st best player in the world.

**Disqualification costs Torrance a Ryder Cup bonus**

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

**S**AM TORRANCE was disqualified from the Oké Pro-Am golf tournament in Madrid yesterday when he failed to turn up on time for the PGA European Tour event.

The Scot, 43, who was hoping to collect Ryder Cup points with most of the leading European players competing in the Dunhill Cup this week, was due to go out second on the La Moraleja One course with Manuel Ballesteros. Severiano's

brother, but slept in at his Madrid hotel.

Torrance had only just returned from Korea, where he finished third in a tournament last week and may have had difficulty adjusting to the time difference.

Andrew Barnett, of Wales, the first reserve, was on the course before the start of play and was called in to take Torrance's place.

Andrew Sherborne, whose two

European Tour victories were in

the Spanish capital, made a good

start yesterday, returning a round of 67, five under par, to hold second place with Miguel Martín, of Spain, whose compatriot, Pedro Linhart, leads by two shots.

Severiano Ballesteros recorded a 72 and was none too pleased to learn that the leaderboard was showing his score as 70, while Tom Kite, of the United States, recorded a round of 71, spoilt by bogeys at the last two holes.

The 120 professionals in the field

will play one round each on the two

La Moraleja courses and, for the first 36 holes, will have an amateur partner in a pro-am event. The professional scores will count towards the Tour tournament and the leading 65 after two rounds will play in the last two rounds.

Trish Johnson and Joanne Morley, of Great Britain, will be seeking their second European titles of the season in the 54-hole French Open, which begins in Arras today.

Johnson won the European

Open last month and last week was successful in the LPGA Fieldcrest Cannon Classic as Morley completed a maiden Tour victory in the German Open in Hamburg. Their biggest challenge is expected to come from their Solheim Cup team-mates, Marie-Laure de Lorenzi, from France, and Lisa Hackney.

Hackney won the Welsh Open last May but de Lorenzi has yet to win this season despite ten top-ten finishes in 12 tournaments.

was yorked by Kapoor for 14 in the last over before lunch.

The dismissal marked the start of a decline in which Australia's last nine wickets tumbled for 101. Michael Slater, the top scorer, was caught and bowled by Kumble for 44, made in 130 minutes off 96 deliveries and including six fours, and Steve Waugh was caught behind for nought by a fumbling Nayan Mongia off an inside edge.

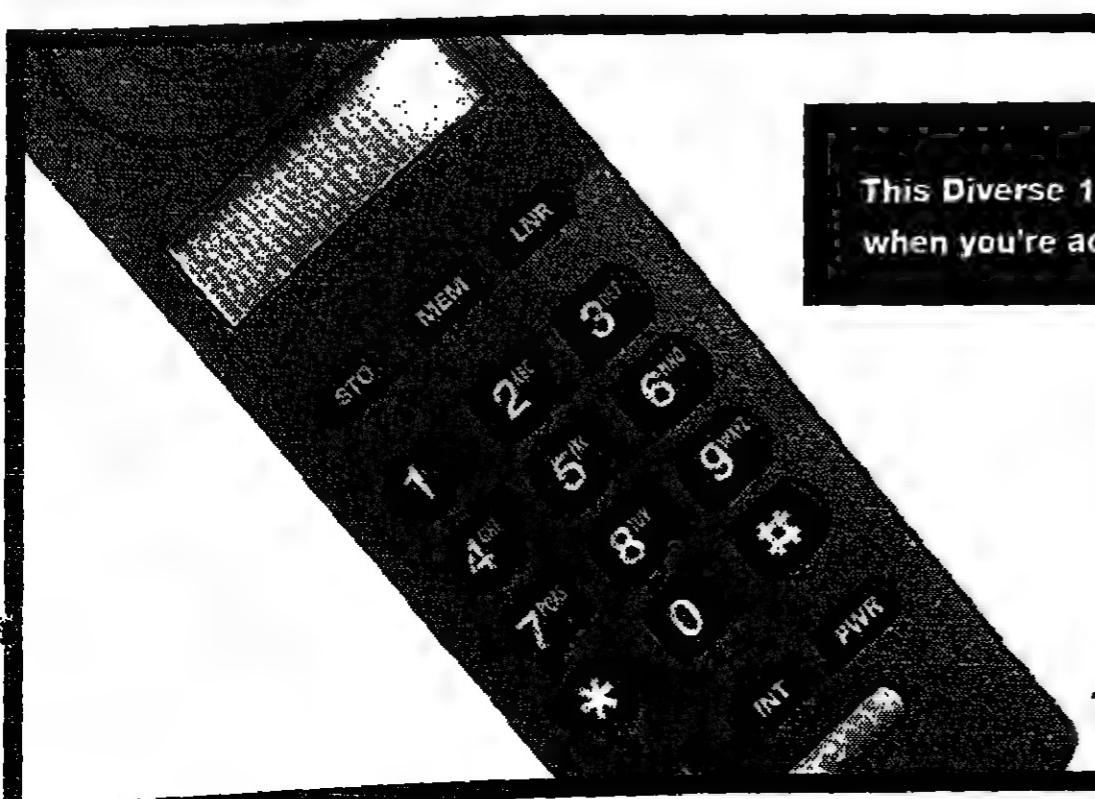
Mark Waugh and Michael Bevan briefly checked the slide by adding 49 for the fifth wicket before Bevan, playing across the line, was trapped leg-before by Joshi for 26. Waugh also made 26 before falling to Joshi, and Kumble then polished off the lower order.

India started slowly, with Mongia struggling for 40 minutes before hitting the first four of the innings. He was unbeaten on 26 at the close. By contrast, Sourav Ganguly, the left-handed batsman, who was playing his third Test after scoring a century in each of his first two in England this summer, struck four fours in his unbeaten 19.

India had brought in David Johnson, the medium-fast bowler, in place of Javagal Srinath, who was declared unfit with a stiff shoulder.

Johnson, 23, is of Anglo-Indian parentage, and toured Sri Lanka and Canada with the India team for one-day games this year.

Geoff Marsh, the Australia coach, said: "We did play a couple of loose strokes but the Indian spinners bowled extremely well. We'd have liked to score 50 or 60 more runs but the ball's turning and it's keeping up and down. We are very much in the game."



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This Diverse 1000 digital cordless phone is so clear that if you say you're calling from work when you're actually in the garden, it would be wise to ask the blackbirds to cut the tweeting.

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**BT** It's good to talk

# Worry not, there's always Shearer

A friend of mine has an interesting global theory of weight loss: that you can lose weight, but someone else gets it. "Trust me," she says, "it's got to go somewhere."

I was reminded of this interesting transference idea (which explains a lot, actually) yesterday morning, when the burden of international football anxiety carried over from the night before proved so heavy I could hardly get out of bed. The displaced anguish of 75,000 cheering, flag-waving England fans still filled my head like a blizzard, mixed with such hubristic chants as "You're not singing any more" and "There's only one Stuart Pearce". Not enough over time worrying had gone on in this stadium, I felt, so I underlined the lot. People have always said I "worried for England"; incidentally, but somehow I never expected to do it literally.

The worrying started unnecessarily, in fact, on Tuesday night. Let's call it a warm-up. Flicking proudly through my new cable channels at 10pm, I found an arresting picture and stopped. Hey, a line-up of England footballers on a big field in an empty stadium, muttering the usual "Hello Mum" to "God Save the Queen". That's odd, I thought, glancing nervously at the date on the newspaper. That's tomorrow, surely?

Unaware of the convention of under-21 internationals, I cast an anxious eye across the room to my precious Wembley ticket (which had cost £28) and experienced a sort of icy grip at the back of my neck, while a series of panic-thoughts leapt-frogged each other and I stopped breathing. "There's nobody there! They've got the day wrong! What's going on? Those players are complete unknowns! Glenn Hoddle has gone mad!"

So when the man next to me at Wembley on Wednesday night shouted encouragingly in my ear, "You ought to let yourself go," during the eventful three-goal first half, I could only smile weakly and put my head back in my hand. I was the designated worrier, admittedly, but a strange thing had



LYNNE TRUSS  
Kicking and Screaming

definitely happened to the pitch, especially after that early Polish goal; it had some how tipped up at one end, so that red-suited Poles could roll downhill like gob-stoppers on a tray, while anyone in a white shirt travelling the other way was forced to walk and puff, and carry a big stick.

"Why won't they run?" I kept asking aloud. "Run boys, run!" I developed an impatient gesture, using the back of the hand, trying to waft them. But despite some quite heroic am-

**'Seaman's goal was so busy, Poland's goalkeeper was reading a magazine'**

bulatory efforts (two resulting in snatched goals from Shearer), the force of gravity dragged them back down hill, with the result that so much action took place around Seaman's goal (the end I was sitting) I'm quite sure that at one time the Polish goalkeeper was reading a magazine.

The sense of occasion was faultless, and the final result was of course a blessed relief, but the weakness of the England defence was gaudy to behold, like seeing an injured zebra in a wildlife film dragging its hind quarters while gathering hyenas struck their lips and laugh. Knowing not much about football tactics, I thought it might be better in the circumstances to give defiance up as a bad job and get

On a more cheerful note, my Euro 96 paper was reactivated unexpectedly on Tuesday morning and scared the living daylight out of me. I heard its loud buzz from the mantelpiece, and jumped in the air. But the bliss of reunion was a great comfort. My little friend I took it to the match and it kept me up with the English goals, but not the Polish, which was a bit remiss, but considerate. I feel we have a very special bond, that paper and me. I feel it would say "Hey, let yourself go, everyone," if it could.

**FOR THE RECORD**

**BASEBALL**  
AMERICAN LEAGUE: Championship series: New York 3, Baltimore 2 (in 11 innings). New York last out; best-of seven, 1-0.  
**NATIONAL LEAGUE:** Championship series: Atlanta 2, St Louis 2 (Atlanta lead 1-0).

**BASKETBALL**

**EUROPEAN LEAGUE:** Sheffield 70, Crvena Zvezda Belgrade 78, Crvena Zvezda Palace 67, Manchester 82.  
**EUROPEAN LEAGUE:** Group B: Bologna (It) 82, Alba Bergamo (It) 72, Group C: Panathinaikos (Gr) 72, Split (Croat) 50; Virtus Roma (Fr) 70, Liepaja (Latvia) 69; Bologna (It) 70, Leipziger (Germany) 67; 71, Grizzli Catania (Sicily) 69; Dynamo Moscow (Russia) 61.

**CRICKET**

Test match  
India v Australia  
Australia won their India, with nine wickets in hand, are 125 runs behind Australia.  
**AUSTRALIA:** First Innings  
M J Slaters c and b Kumble ..... 44  
"M A Taylor lbw to Pressed ..... 27  
R T Ponting b Kapoor ..... 14  
M V Srinivasan b Kapoor ..... 10  
S R Waugh c Kapoor b Kapoor ..... 0  
M G Bevan lbw to Joshi ..... 17  
T A Headley b Kumble ..... 28  
P A Venkatesh c Kapoor ..... 27  
P E Relford c Davel b Kumble ..... 7  
P E McNaught not out ..... 8

**WORLD WATCHING**

Answers from page 43

**ACCAROID**

(a) The name given to a resinous gum obtained from various Australian trees, especially the blackboy or grass-tree, used for preparing varnish, paper-size, etc. Etymology unknown. The blackboy gum and Botany Bay gum yield red and yellow varieties, respectively.

**EXCLAVE**

(a) A portion of territory separated from the country to which it politically belongs and entirely surrounded by alien dominions seen from the viewpoint of the "home" country (as opposed to the surrounding dominions). "New Towns, which are towns and not garden suburbs with odd shopping centres as urban exurbs and a trading estate along the railway."

**CATANACHE**

(b) The name of a genus (*Catananche*) of herbs of the family Composite with blue or yellow flowers. From the Latin *cata* down + *anike* compulsion. "A packet of seed of catanache which gave me a lovely group of lavender-blue daisy-like flowers in August."

**EMMENTAL**

(c) Or Emmental. The third best cheese in the world, after Roquefort and Gruyère (smaller holes). A Swiss cheese containing numerous holes. A toponym from Emmental, a region in Switzerland. "Cheese was made in in prehistoric times, and the craft has developed great heights of skill in the creation of such cheeses as English Stilton, Swiss Emmentaler and French Roquefort."

**SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE**  
1. Rb7 Qd8; 2. Qh8- Kg6; 3. Bf5 checkmate.

everybody attacking, but evidently that's not how it's done. The bloke next to me blamed Gary Neville, which seemed reasonable. I've never warmed to him myself. Meanwhile, the bloke's friend called for Platt to be played ("Get Platty"), which encouraged me considerably, since that's what I always say, too.

Would a few drinks afterwards have helped? I'm talking about the players. While I tirelessly waited them up the pitch in the first half ("Go, go"), and beckoned them furiously ("This way! This way!") in the second, I kept thinking of my new friend's advice about letting yourself go. "You ought to let yourselves go." I wanted to yell, but ironically I was too inhibited. Only in the fabulously exciting final minutes did the England side seem to warm up and enjoy themselves. They would get the ball, break ranks, and run.

McManaman and Pearce seemed to be the heroes of the night. Perhaps it's easy for a novice to spot what McManaman is doing (he races like stink), but the crowd loves him too. The big shout of "Yes" goes up for him, just as it goes up for Shearer and Gascoigne. And he is not (in phrase my

man used to) backward in coming forward, which on Wednesday was a breath of fresh air. Apparently our defence was so weak because Poland had cunningly tricked us. "No, we will not be

trying to score goals," they announced beforehand, with their crossed fingers hidden behind their backs. "Goals are overrated, in our opinion." And we fell for it. Good grief.

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Shearer's two goals not only denied Poland, but they almost defied gravity

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**FOR THE RECORD**

**HOCKEY**  
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Detroit 2, Edmonton 0; Montreal 12, Los Angeles 2; Ottawa 3 New York Islanders 3 (OT); Chicago 0, Anaheim 2; Calgary 1, St Louis 2; Vancouver 1 Buffalo 2.

**FALL OF WICKET:** 1-13; 2-13; 3-13; 4-13; 5-13; 6-13; 7-13; 8-13; 9-13; 10-13; 11-13; 12-13; 13-13; 14-13; 15-13; 16-13; 17-13; 18-13; 19-13; 20-13; 21-13; 22-13; 23-13; 24-13; 25-13; 26-13; 27-13; 28-13; 29-13; 30-13; 31-13; 32-13; 33-13; 34-13; 35-13; 36-13; 37-13; 38-13; 39-13; 40-13; 41-13; 42-13; 43-13; 44-13; 45-13; 46-13; 47-13; 48-13; 49-13; 50-13; 51-13; 52-13; 53-13; 54-13; 55-13; 56-13; 57-13; 58-13; 59-13; 60-13; 61-13; 62-13; 63-13; 64-13; 65-13; 66-13; 67-13; 68-13; 69-13; 70-13; 71-13; 72-13; 73-13; 74-13; 75-13; 76-13; 77-13; 78-13; 79-13; 80-13; 81-13; 82-13; 83-13; 84-13; 85-13; 86-13; 87-13; 88-13; 89-13; 90-13; 91-13; 92-13; 93-13; 94-13; 95-13; 96-13; 97-13; 98-13; 99-13; 100-13; 101-13; 102-13; 103-13; 104-13; 105-13; 106-13; 107-13; 108-13; 109-13; 110-13; 111-13; 112-13; 113-13; 114-13; 115-13; 116-13; 117-13; 118-13; 119-13; 120-13; 121-13; 122-13; 123-13; 124-13; 125-13; 126-13; 127-13; 128-13; 129-13; 130-13; 131-13; 132-13; 133-13; 134-13; 135-13; 136-13; 137-13; 138-13; 139-13; 140-13; 141-13; 142-13; 143-13; 144-13; 145-13; 146-13; 147-13; 148-13; 149-13; 150-13; 151-13; 152-13; 153-13; 154-13; 155-13; 156-13; 157-13; 158-13; 159-13; 160-13; 161-13; 162-13; 163-13; 164-13; 165-13; 166-13; 167-13; 168-13; 169-13; 170-13; 171-13; 172-13; 173-13; 174-13; 175-13; 176-13; 177-13; 178-13; 179-13; 180-13; 181-13; 182-13; 183-13; 184-13; 185-13; 186-13; 187-13; 188-13; 189-13; 190-13; 191-13; 192-13; 193-13; 194-13; 195-13; 196-13; 197-13; 198-13; 199-13; 200-13; 201-13; 202-13; 203-13; 204-13; 205-13; 206-13; 207-13; 208-13; 209-13; 210-13; 211-13; 212-13; 213-13; 214-13; 215-13; 216-13; 217-13; 218-13; 219-13; 220-13; 221-13; 222-13; 223-13; 224-13; 225-13; 226-13; 227-13; 228-13; 229-13; 230-13; 231-13; 232-13; 233-13; 234-13; 235-13; 236-13; 237-13; 238-13; 239-13; 240-13; 241-13; 242-13; 243-13; 244-13; 245-13; 246-13; 247-13; 248-13; 249-13; 250-13; 251-13; 252-13; 253-13; 254-13; 255-13; 256-13; 257-13; 258-13; 259-13; 260-13; 261-13; 262-13; 263-13; 264-13; 265-13; 266-13; 267-13; 268-13; 269-13; 270-13; 271-13; 272-13; 273-13; 274-13; 275-13; 276-13; 277-13; 278-13; 279-13; 280-13; 281-13; 282-13; 283-13; 284-13; 285-13; 286-13; 287-13; 288-13; 289-13; 290-13; 291-13; 292-13; 293-13; 294-13; 295-13; 296-13; 297-13; 298-13; 299-13; 300-13; 301-13; 302-13; 303-13; 304-13; 305-13; 306-13; 307-13; 308-13; 309-13; 310-13; 311-13; 312-13; 313-13; 314-13; 315-13; 316-13; 317-13; 318-13; 319-13; 320-13; 321-13; 322-13; 323-13; 324-13; 325-13; 326-13; 327-13; 328-13; 329-13; 330-13; 331-13; 332-13; 333-13; 334-13; 335-13; 336-13; 337-13; 338-13; 339-13; 340-13; 341-13; 342-13; 343-13; 344-13; 345-13; 346-13; 347-13; 348-13; 349-13; 350-13; 351-13; 352-13; 353-13; 354-13; 355-13; 356-13; 357-13; 358-13; 359-13; 360-13; 361-13; 362-13; 363-13; 364-13; 365-13; 366-13; 367-13; 368-13; 369-13; 370-13; 371-13; 372-13; 373-13; 374-13; 375-13; 376-13; 377-13; 378-13; 379-13; 380-13; 381-13; 382-13; 383-13; 384-13; 385-13; 386-13; 387-13; 388-13; 389-13; 390-13; 391-13; 392-13; 393-13; 394-13; 395-13; 396-13; 397-13; 398-13; 399-13; 400-13; 401-13; 402-13; 403-13; 404-13; 405-13; 406-13; 407-13; 408-13; 409-13; 410-13; 411-13; 412-13; 413-13; 414-13; 415-13; 416-13; 417-13; 418-13; 419-13; 420-13; 421-13; 422-13; 423-13; 424-13; 425-13; 426-13; 427-13; 428-13; 429-13; 430-13; 431-13; 432-13; 433-13; 434-13; 435-13; 436-13; 437-13; 438-13; 439-13; 440-13; 441-13; 442-13; 443-13; 444-13; 445-13; 446-13; 447-13; 448-13; 449-13; 450-13; 451-13; 452-13; 453-13; 454-13; 455-13; 456-13; 457-13; 458-13; 459-13; 460-13; 461-13; 462-13; 463-13; 464-13; 465-13; 466-13; 467-13; 468-13; 469-13; 470-13; 471-13; 472-13; 473-13; 474-13; 475-

# It's a fair cop, guv, but is it blue enough?

**F**irst there was *NYPD Blue*. Or was it *Hill Street Blues* that kicked the whole thing off? Anyway, whichever pioneering American cop show deserves the credit, the BBC borrowed the camera work and the colour and brought us *Out of the Blue* — presumably after audience research showed that *Dixon of Dock Blue* was a non-starter.

Last night, ITV borrowed all that was left — the mood and the music — and brought back *Theif Takers* for a second series. It is still a terrible title (what, no blue?) but for two thirds of an enjoyable hour, the content bordered on the magnificent. This was no mean achievement given that the content also bordered on the extremely unusual.

We began, however, on a lighter note, with a new member of the cast, Amanda Pays as DS Anna Dryden. Hang on, Amanda Pays? Isn't she a fabulously beautiful

Hollywood film star? Well up to a point, DI Copper, up to a point. Anyway, the upshot of Pays's return to Britain is that the latest recruit to the Flying Squad is... fabulously beautiful.

This did not go unnoticed by her male colleagues who upheld the finest traditions of the police with much macho muttering, beginning with "shell do" and deteriorating rapidly from then on.

Dryden, aided and abetted by the equally good-looking DC Grace Harris (Pooky Quesnel), responded as only television policewomen can, by wearing a succession of ever tighter T-shirts. It may not solve the harassment problem, but it'll do wonders for the ratings.

Not that the ratings have much to worry about after last night's impressive return. Dryden established her credentials by rugby-tackling an escaping armed robber. So overcome with gratitude was Dalton (Robbie Gee), that

he began singing like a canary with an extremely thick Jamaican accent. Subtitles might have helped (I have the same problem with *Hamish Macbeth* sometimes) but I think the upshot was that a Manchester gang knew there was an undercover policeman waiting for them in London. DC Alan Oxford (Gary McDonald) was in very serious trouble.

The scenes between McDona-

ld and Grant Masters,

playing his captor and his loquacious tormentor, were exceptionally strong, with Masters wringing maximum menace from his apparent role as a ruthless drug-dealer. Only later — when Roy Mitchell's script got just a bit too clever for its own good — did we discover that all was not what it threatened to be. A crusading assassin who leaves his finger-prints all over the place? Be serious.

Visually, this opening episode was

## REVIEW



Matthew Bond

was in danger of looking almost too good — and I'm not talking about Amanda Pays again. *Interior* weren't interiors unless they were moodily lit through a skylight or air vent, while what good were arrests at Heathrow if a Concorde wasn't taking off just a few feet overhead? There must have been cheers when that one came off but, as long as the rest of the series continues to mix style

and substance to such polished effect, there will be more to come.

But nothing like the roar that will go up when the long hand of the law finally feels the shoulder of Cindy Verney. The question is, will it? In last night's *EastEnders* (BBC1) it was looking horribly as if her limp rag of a husband might get her off the hook. "I love Cindy and she loves me," he told the wonderfully disbelieving DCI Masters (Campbell Morrison). What I can't work out is how being shot in the stomach can have affected Ian's memory so badly.

The Walford whisky bottle, which in recent weeks has been permanently glued to Phil's right hand, has now passed to David Wicks. Given that his preferred form of stress relief is making a pass at one of his many former wives, this can only be seen as a positive step. He's in quite enough trouble as it is.

But what I want to know is when

the police will take time off from searching for Ian's attacker to launch a hunt for the real Grant Mitchell. Making breakfast for Tiffany, putting the word round for Kath — even helping his beetroot-faced brother take the First Step — it's clear to anybody that he's been kidnapped and replaced by an impostor.

As I say, that is what I want to know. What I would like to have been on the other hand, is a fly on the wall of Michael Grade's office when he watched the first instalment of *Desire* (Channel 4). Did he sit back and applaud or was there a long ghastly silence as he realised he had an absolute pup on his hands? I'm inclined — strongly inclined — to the latter.

This was the programme that was supposed to revolutionise fashion coverage on television. What it delivered was a charmless,

snobbish 30-minute plug for the sort of fashion designers who make millions out of expensive scents and shouldn't have a television programme to help them.

It promised gossip. A breathless Sophie Anderton, whose exquisite eyebrows appear to have a mind of their own, revealed that *Desire* predicts John Galliano is set to take over at Dior, which is about as new as chocolate being the new black. It promised fashion insights, which last night included what male models wear to casting sessions and debutantes wear to Queen Charlotte's Ball. Nice to see the producers taking Channel 4's remit to provide broadcasting for minorities so seriously.

As for the much-vaunted controversy, we got Johnny Moke, the shoe designer, whose particular hobby horse was... the appalling state of the nation's footwear. Well, knock me down with a feather box, there was a surprise.

6.00am Business Breakfast (73140)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (94481)

9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (1554256)

9.20 Style Challenge (s) (241091) 9.45

Kilroy (s) (2261072) 10.30 Can't Cook

Won't Cook (s) (82091)

11.00 News: Regional News and weather (Ceefax) (8450947)

11.05 Conference Live: Today sees John Major deliver his speech to the delegates including news at 12.00 (s) (9326598)

1.00pm News and weather (Ceefax) (14989)

1.30 Regional News (7307685)

1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (14455417)

2.00 Call My Bluff (s) (4562) 2.30 Peter

Seabrook's Gardening Week (s) (879)

3.00 Incognito (s) (8039)

3.30 The Animals of Farthing Wood (r) (Ceefax) (s) (9694633) 3.55 Dear Mr. Barker (s) (9694633) 4.10 The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest (s) (Ceefax) (6068895) 4.35 Grange Hill (r) (Ceefax) (s) (293548) 5.00 Newsround (Ceefax) (2331091) 5.10 Blue Peter (Ceefax) (s) (8437685)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (1549656)

6.00 News and weather (Ceefax) (508)

6.30 Regional News magazines (188)

7.00 Muppets Tonight! Frantic family entertainment. The show's special guest this evening is Whoopi Goldberg (Ceefax) (s) (438411)

7.25 Top of the Pops (Ceefax) (s) (693624)

8.00 This Is Your Life: Michael Aspel surprises another personality with the Big Red Book (Ceefax) (s) (1698)

8.30 Auntie TV's Favourite: Drama. The run-up to the BBC's TV Awards in November continues with a look back at some of the channel's outstanding performers and drama series that have appeared over the years. Viewers are given a chance to vote for their own personal preferences (Ceefax) (s) (375) (3533)

9.00 News: Regional News and weather (Ceefax) (3072)

9.30 Dangerfield: Edie (Ceefax) (s) (757071)

10.20 **DAVIDES**: The Nation's Favourite Poems. Presented by Griff Rhys Jones (Ceefax) (755573)

10.45 FILM: A Cry in the Dark (1988). Based on the true story of Lindy Chamberlain, the Australian woman who was accused of murder despite her claims that her baby was dropped off by a dingo. Strong performances from Sam Niel and Meryl Streep are the highlights of the film. Directed by Fred Schepisi (s) (25580072)

12.40 FILM: Dr Terrors Presents: Devil of Darkness (1965). Supernatural chiller about a writer and some friends who encounter a satanic cult while on holiday in Britain. When two members of his group are mysteriously killed, the writer becomes unwillingly involved with the leader of the cult, who turns out to be a 400-year-old vampire. With William Sylvester, Hubert Nobis and Tracy Reed. Directed by Lance Comfort (1088657)

2.10am-2.15 Weather (8223541)

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6.00am Open University: The Chemistry of Creativity (Ceefax) (7465140) 6.25 The Chemistry of Life and Death (7482745) 6.50 Surviving the Exam (Ceefax) (9042072)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (Ceefax) (6202140)

7.30 Alvin and the Chipmunks (1679121)

7.55 Smart (r) (Ceefax) (s) (8745935)

8.20 The Greedyasians Gang (7678968) 8.25 Spider (2316868) 8.35 Lassie (8195072)

9.00 French Experience (5553546) 9.15 The Business Studies Collection (4009858)

9.45 Watch (1860985) 10.00 Playdays (5632230) 10.30 What? Where? Where? Why? (192258) 10.45 Revista (1918411) 11.00 Look and Read (9698826) 11.20 Short Circuit (5658614) 11.40 English Time (1847330) 12.00 English File: a Salesman (71885) 12.30 Working Lunch (92017) 1.00 Scene (44940) 1.30 Technology Starters (57319817) 1.45 Words and Pictures (5730728) 2.00 The Greedyasians Gang (51872782) 2.05 Spider (51671053)

2.10 Racing from Ascot (193168)

3.05 News (8389614) 4.00 Today's the Day (701) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (885)

5.00 Esther (s) (3258) 5.30 Going, Going, Gone (s) (237)

6.00 Slider. The group travels to a dimension in which an asteroid is on a collision course with the Earth (s) (512343)

6.45 Conference Talk (r) (s) (281688)

7.35 A Week to Remember. Patsy newsmag footage from 1958 (b/w) (s) (424262)

7.45 One Man and His Dog. Robin Page introduces three Sooty companions in the sheepdog trials from Combermere in Shropshire (Ceefax) (s) (850814)

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2.10am-2.15 Weather (8223541)

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8.30 **ENGLISH COUNTRY GARDEN**: April — The Early Spring (Ceefax) (s) (1275)

9.00 Shooting Stars. Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer host the early comedy quiz with team captains Union Jackson and Mark Lamar. Special guests are Jo Brand, Gary Rhodes, Russell Grant and Carol Smillie (Ceefax) (s) (4514)

9.30 All for Jilly! Clancy. The iconic comedian dispenses justice after listening to the gripes and grievances of the person in the street (Ceefax) (s) (11091)

10.00 Have I Got News for You. Guests this week are Peter Stringfellow and Rhona Cameron (s) (72614)

10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (228658)

11.15 **CELESTIAL** (Ceefax) (s) (770589)

11.40 Grace under Fire (s) (770589)

12.30 FILM: My Little Chickadee (1940 b/w). Comedy western set in the late 1880s. Starring Mae West and W.C. Fields. Directed by Edward Cline. Dated at 2.00

1.30 English Country Garden (Ceefax) (s) (1275)

2.00 **SKY MOVIES GOLD**

4.00pm The Matchmaker (1959) 5.45 A Farewell to Arms (1957) 7.00 The Polar King (1962) 8.00 The Magic Bubble (1982) 9.00 The Magic of More Than Love (1983) 10.00 The Magic of More Than Love (1983) 11.00 The Wonderful (1983) 12.00 Deep Dive (2001) 1.00 W.A.F. (2001) 2.00 The Garden (1994) 2.30 Deep Dive (2001) 3.00 The Garden (1994) 3.30 Deep Dive (2001) 4.00 W.A.F. (2001) 4.30 The Garden (1994) 5.00 Quantum Leap (1995) 5.30 Quantum Leap (1995) 6.00 The New Adventures of Superwoman (1995) 7.00 The New Adventures of Superwoman (1995) 8.00 Just Judding (2030) 8.30 Coppers (1158) 9.00 Valley of the Devils (5051) 10.00 Chopper (1995) 11.00 Outnumbered (1995) 12.00 The Quantum Leap (1995) 1.00 The Quantum Leap (1995) 2.00 Adventures in Wonderland (1995) 2.30 Darkwing Duck (1993) 3.00 Darkwing Duck (1993) 3.30 Darkwing Duck (1993) 4.00 W.A.F. (2001) 4.30 The Garden (1994) 5.00 Quantum Leap (1995) 5.30 Quantum Leap (1995) 6.00 The Garden (1994) 6.30 The Garden (1994) 7.00 The Garden (1994) 7.30 The Garden (1994) 8.00 The Garden (1994) 8.30 The Garden (1994) 9.00 The Garden (1994) 9.30 The Garden (1994) 10.00 The Garden (1994) 10.30 The Garden (1994) 11.00 The Garden (1994) 11.30 The Garden (1994) 12.00 The Garden (1994) 12.30 The Garden (1994) 1.00 The Garden (1994) 2.00 The Garden (1994) 2.30 The Garden (1994) 3.00 The Garden (1994) 3.30 The Garden (1994) 4.00 The Garden (1994) 4.30 The Garden (1994) 5.00 The Garden (1994) 5.30 The Garden (1994) 6.00 The

**BASEBALL 42**

World Series catches fire after kid's glove lifts Yankees

# SPORT

FRIDAY OCTOBER 11 1996

**ROWING 43**

Searle brother embarks on a solo voyage



## Giants compete to take over United

**MANCHESTER UNITED**, the most profitable football club in the world, is being lined up as the subject of a takeover bid that will value the public limited company at more than £350 million.

Martin Edwards, the chief executive of Manchester United plc and chairman of the football club, has already rejected overtures from Michael Grade of Channel Four television. Grade is the chairman of a video distribution company, VCI, which approached the United board with a takeover proposal valuing the club at £300 million.

That was rejected because Edwards did not feel there was enough depth to VCI's business plan for the football club and because the value of the company leapt when yearly profits of £10.7 million were

announced this week – despite several adverse trading factors.

However, Edwards accepts that the VCI bid will be the first of many, with a scramble amongst leading leisure and television companies to secure the most financially attractive sports club in Great Britain. *The Times* can reveal that several business giants, including Granada and Whitbread, have expressed a strong interest in buying the club.

Edwards has privately said that would take upwards of £350 million to buy United. That will not deter Granada, one of the most powerful independent television companies in Britain, which is based in Manchester.

United presents a massively attractive proposition for Granada, because of a television revolution – pay-per-view –

David Maddock identifies some of the suitors queuing up to woo the most profitable football club in the world



that will sweep Britain within the next three years. The company has developed the technology, through its cable and satellite interests, to beam United matches into most homes in the country.

United has commissioned a recent report on the impact of pay-per-view, which found that the FA Carling Premiership could command as much as £3 billion in fees per year, with United apparently able to secure a slice of anything up to £500 million of that total figure. Those figures are probably exaggerated, but expert analysis in the City suggests that a turnover figure of around £250 million should be

attainable for United within the next three years, should it embrace pay-per-view.

With United valued at £265 million on a turnover of £53 million, the potential for growth within the short-term is obvious. Big television companies like Granada and

Channel Four would also have the massive bonus of being able to offer their viewers the chance to watch Manchester United. BSkyB has quickly become a profitable venture, using sport as the main attraction with football coverage is the jewel in the crown of its output.

Edwards is the largest shareholder at the club, with a 17 per cent stake, while the rest of the shares are held largely by City institutions, thus making United a prime target for a takeover – if the offer valued the club at a higher level than its present £265 million rating.

United, conceivably, could have a value of approaching £1 billion in a little over three years' time, when the television deal with BSkyB ends and it can introduce its own pay-per-view service. With a television company at the helm, such figures would be attainable and make its present valuation hugely attractive.

Edwards conceded last night that there would be more bids after the failure of VCI to secure a takeover – and he indicated that he would be ready to do business if the price was right.

"Any successful company is an attractive takeover prospect. People are going to look at it, so it could well be the subject of more takeover proposals," he said. "What I can say is that it's not something that we've sought and it's not something that we are partic-

ularly looking for." United is already in talks with Granada over plans for its own television station and it seems a natural progression towards a joint-venture into pay-per-view, with the television company taking a controlling stake in the club. Other businesses, however, will make the takeover battle a heated one. Whitbread has expressed an interest and United News and Media, with its newspaper and television interests, is also reported to be looking for a football club.

Pay-per-view is the way forward for football and big media players in Europe are anxious to get into pay-per-view. If United is ultimately acquired by an English television company, then it could pave the way for a European Super League.

IAN STEWART

**McGrath called in to act as Derby mentor**

By RICHARD HOBSON

**PAUL MCGRATH** has not always been regarded as an ideal role model, but yesterday he joined Derby County with the instruction of guiding the club's youngsters through the remainder of their first season in the FA Carling Premiership.

The 36-year-old defender, capped 82 times by the Republic of Ireland, completed his move from Aston Villa for a fee that will rise to £200,000 with appearances, having agreed personal terms with Jim Smith, the Derby manager, yesterday morning.

He will go straight into the side for the game against Newcastle United at the Baseball Ground tomorrow. "I could have had an easier start than Shearer and Ferdinand but it will be a relief to be playing first team football again," McGrath said. His one appearance for Villa this season was as a substitute in

Wembley lessons — 44  
Scotland in dark — 44  
Whither Weak? — 44

the UEFA Cup tie against Helsingborgs in Sweden.

"I did not think I would get another contract with Villa at the end of last season, but when I was offered a one-year deal by Brian Little [the manager] I thought I was in his plans. That is why I was surprised and annoyed not to play."

McGrath, who has signed until the end of the season, admits that his chance of an international recall is slim. Smith, though, believes he has signed a bargain. "I just felt that somebody of his ability and experience was too good to miss. There is a lot of quality here but eight of the first team squad are 24 or under and I expect Paul to be a big influence on them."

Sheffield Wednesday hope to unveil Benito Carbone as their new signing today. The Internazionale midfield player flew from Milan to discuss personal terms with the club last night. Wednesday have agreed a fee of £2.75 million.

"We are a long way down the road and he would be a terrific signing for us," David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, said.

A pensive Montogomery contemplates defeat in his match against Sandelin at St Andrews yesterday

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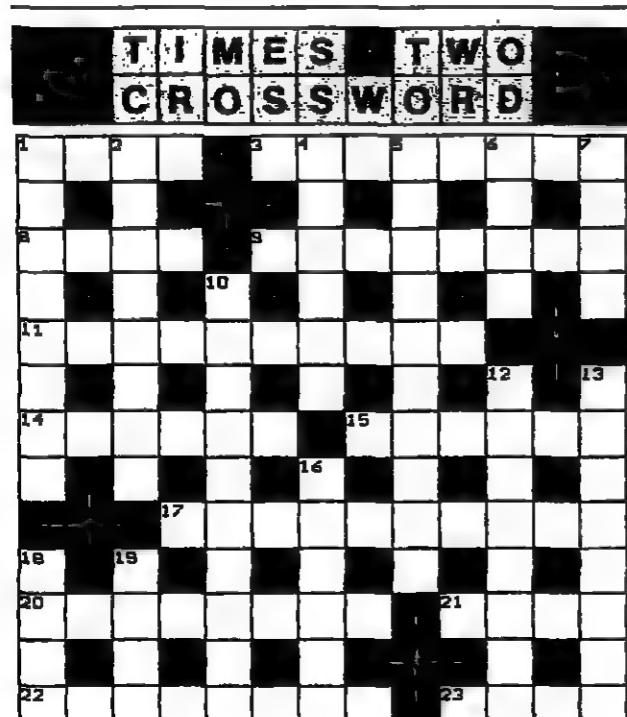
Morse can integrate these systems on the same network – sharing resources and delivering applications to users through the most sensible route.

**Morse Data**

0800 22 88 88

Results, page 46

### TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 910

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Vestment; manage (4)	1 Showing strain, worry (8)
3 Bellicose nationalist (8)	2 Ulysses' faithful wife (3)
8 Inflammatory speech (4)	4 Be determined (to) (6)
9 SW Wales cathedral town (2,6)	5 Lonely wife (5,5)
11 Barren, desolate land (10)	6 Sacred wader (4)
14 Meal (6)	7 Throw in air; spin (coin) (4)
15 Capital of Albania (6)	10 Anne Elliot novel (10)
17 (Merlin) in person (4,2,4)	12 One living off another (8)
20 Consistent (with) (2,1,5)	13 Room below ground (8)
21 Bee house (4)	16 Signal fire (6)
22 Candidate clergyman (8)	18 Horseback game; water game (4)
23 Tidy; undiluted; blunt (4)	19 Unembellished; blunt (4)

The solution to 909 will be published Wednesday, October 16

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### DUNHILL CUP DETAILS

GROUP ONE: United 2 Italy 1 (United States names first: M O'Meara 69, C Stewart 70, D McNamee 72, G McNamee 73, P McNamee 74, J McNamee 75, S Sandelin 60, S Grapson 75, Spain 0 England 3 (Spain names first: J Gamero 77 lost to Westwood 69; M A Jiménez 71 lost to Lomax 70; D Domingo 76 lost to B Lane 69)).	GROUP THREE: South Africa 2 Canada 1 (Canada names first: W Gibson 68, R Goff 77, E Broadbent 77, B Gibson 75; R Goff 76 lost to J Rutledge 68; Ireland 2 Wales 1 (Ireland names first: D Clarke 71 lost to M Mountford 70; P McGinley 68 of P Aitken 70; P Harrington 70 vs P Price 69)).
GROUP TWO: Zimbabwe 2 India 1 (Zimbabwe names first: A Johnstone 73, S Sivaprasadarao 74, S Naidoo 75, G Ghel 73, N Price 70 vs J Singh 71; Scotland 1 Sweden 2 (Scotland names first: A Colart 67 vs P Hedblom 70; R Russell 69 lost to P Sjöland 68; C Montgomery 69 lost to J Sandelin 68).	GROUP FOUR: New Zealand 2 (New Zealand names first: G Williams 69 vs H Phipps 70 to G Turner 74 lost to T Gooley 71; F Nobilo 65 vs S Shriver 71); Australia 2 Japan 1 (Australia names first: W Riley 71 lost to N Ozaki 67; S Elkington 68 vs K Takami 74; G Norman 72 vs H Matsui 74).

Montgomery rescued par with an exquisite chip at the 17th but he failed to take advantage of Sandelin's weak first putt on the 18th and three-

and finished his second round using his three-iron.

Montgomery rescued par

with an exquisite chip at the 17th but he failed to take

advantage of Sandelin's weak

first putt on the 18th and three-

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Montgomery rescued par

Retail giant overcomes decades of shareholder resistance to open first branch in Cologne

## M&S set out to storm German high streets

FROM ROGER BOYES IN COLOGNE

**MARKS & SPENCER** yesterday overcame half a century of reluctance about investing in Germany and opened its first store in the centre of Cologne. Elbowing each other in the rush to buy M&S pork pies, Christmas puddings and cotton underpants, German *Hausfrauen* seemed to view the arrival of the shop as the beginning of a counter-revolution on the high street.

"It's time we had better service — maybe the British can help us," Hildegard Wurmback said as she waded through free food samples.

In the basement of the six-floor building, there was an active debate about crumpets. "What are they? What do you do with them?" a middle-aged woman asked. The uniformed German assistant swallowed, probably surprising her normal response to bark back: "You eat them." Instead, in line with her training in the Baker Street branch of M&S, she explained the science of toasting and eating crumpets.

Upstairs in underwear, a guffawing Rhinelaender expressed disappointment that bratwurst is not the only kind of convenience food and that British-made custard tart might taste as good as cheese-cake from the local baker.

The British are on the advance in the German retail world, with Sir Terence Conran having just opened a

Conran design shop in Hamburg. The port city is already regarded as a centre of anglophilic: the Anglo-German Club mimics the clubs of St James and the shops are full of tweed and British trenchcoats.

In the Second World War, the Gestapo arrested 1,300 Hamburgers for "anglophile tendencies", because they

However, M&S is competing largely on quality and on service. This will be the main British contribution to Germany's shopping revolution. If a shirt or a jacket is unavailable in your size in a normal German store, it is bad luck on the customer. "We are guaranteeing our customers that we will get them the right size merchandise."

manager in Cologne is a young Englishman but he has two German sub-managers. British companies are moving into Germany now because the local shopping climate is about to undergo a sea change. From November 1, shops will be free to open in the evenings and on Saturday afternoons. Previously the priority was to protect shop assistants from unnecessary fatigue.

Other British stores — such as Virgin Records which retreated from Berlin a few years ago after a brief, unhappy venture — are likely to follow suit. "We could not ignore such a huge market of 80 million people in the centre of Europe," Mr Nickolds said.

French role: The sandwiches sold in the Cologne M&S store are to be made in France and delivered fresh in the morning.

Leading article, page 21

It's time we had better service — maybe the British can help us

went dancing with crepe-soled shoes, listened to Benny Goodman and carried Chamberlain umbrellas. Nowadays Savile Row tailors visit the two most exclusive hotels twice a year to measure up their many clients. Cologne, however, is a different matter. Like Hamburg it was bombed flat by the British: unlike Hamburg, there is still some lingering resentment.

Marks & Spencer also had to overcome some of its own doubts about Germany. While M&S built up a chain of 26 stores in France, it has ignored Germany partly because of the reservations of Jewish shareholders and some members of the Sieff dynasty which created the modern group.

Yesterday, for the first time in M&S history, the price was in marks and the customers seemed happy. Even with prices about 10 to 15 per cent higher than in England, M&S is competitive in the German high street. The neighbouring and much bigger department store of Kaufhof responded by slashing some prices. That too was welcomed by German customers.

The main hurdle for British retailers, however, is to persuade Germans that bratwurst is not the only kind of convenience food and that British-made custard tart might taste as good as cheese-cake from the local baker.

The British are on the advance in the German retail world, with Sir Terence Conran having just opened a

HOW PRICES COMPARE	
Germany	England
Men's lambswool pullover	£27
Men's sweatshirt	DM55 (£23.01)
Argyle socks (pair)	DM9 (£3.76)
Women's knickers (pack of 3)	£3.50
Women's leather loafers	DM25 (£10.45)
Bin 65 Australian Chardonnay	£10
DM70 (£29.29)	£35
DM8.25 (£3.45)	£4.49
DM17 (£7.11)	£8.49

## French cook up tax attack on Big Mac

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRENCH MPs moved to defend traditional cuisine and raise extra revenue yesterday by proposing a "Big Mac" tax that would increase taxes hugely on the fast-food shops spreading across France.

The Finance Committee of the National Assembly adopted an amendment to next year's budget that would almost quadruple the rate of VAT on fast food, from 5.5 per cent to 20.6 per cent.

"This fast-food amendment is not just aimed at hamburgers," said Pierre Mehaiguerie, the committee chairman. "It will also hit sandwich vendors and other takeaway outlets." The tax would bring in an additional revenue of FFr billion (£124 million). M. Mehaiguerie said.

Owners of bistro and cafés say that the time-honoured French way of eating is dying out as fast-food shops overrun the country. Most eating places must charge the full VAT rate on food and drink; fast-food shops pay the lower rate charged on retail food.

The Government has not yet commented on the proposed "Big Mac" tax, which aims to make fast-food eaters pay up while encouraging

others to sit down to a more traditional meal. Fewer French executives these days have time for the traditional three-course lunch. Yesterday the sandwich counter at Marks & Spencer on the Boulevard Haussmann in Paris was surrounded by a most inelegant scrum at lunchtime, as it is every day, where chic Parisians jostled suited businessmen for the last of the "cheddar et tomate, sauce à la mayonnaise au pain au blé et seigle concassé" (cheese and tomato sandwich).

M&S is more than a shop: it is a fashion statement, offering a version of "Le style autre-Manche" that is a good deal more affordable than the nearby "Old England" department store selling pukka riding crops and tweed suits.

An M&S bag can hold its own with any of the up-market labels in Paris such as Galeries Lafayette. Further, the sandwiches, many of them made in Britain and shipped daily, are better than their French rivals. The M&S pre-cooked meal has also found a niche with working couples unwilling to spend hours preparing an evening meal.

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Shoppers queue outside the store in Cologne yesterday where M&S goods sold in marks for the first time

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Britain  
defiant  
fish quota

THE TIMES FRIDAY OCTOBER 11 1996

OVERSEAS NEWS 15

# Palestinians open new battleground at Temple Mount

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

A NEW archaeological time-bomb is set to explode on Temple Mount, the site holy to Muslims and Jews, when Islamic authorities open a new prayer hall under al-Aqsa mosque which right-wing Jews claim is illegal.

Muslim clerics said last night that they would delay the opening, but this was seen as merely postponing an inevitable conflict.

The cavernous hall, named the Marwani mosque by Palestinians, is in a chamber nearly 2,000 years old, not far from the Israeli tourist tunnel project which last month sparked Palestinian rioting. Seventy-five people died after the Government opened a second tunnel exit under cover of darkness.

Right-wing Jews called on the Government yesterday to prevent the mosque opening in an area known as Solomon's Stables [although it has no connection with Solomon and was built at the time of

Herod]. The General Security Service, Israel's equivalent of M15, gave warning of a violent response from Jewish hardliners who revere Temple Mount at the site of the destroyed first and second temples.

The Hebrew daily *Yedioth Aharonot* reported that the General Security Service had expressed grave concern over the opening of a mosque at Solomon's Stables. The security service has said that elements on the extreme Right of the Jewish political spectrum, for instance Kach or the Temple Mount Faithful group, might try to carry out an attack on Temple Mount. That could lead to the breakdown of the political process with the Palestinians.

The right-wing Government of Binyamin Netanyahu came under heavy pressure yesterday to seal the mosque site. Yigal Bibi, the Deputy Religious Affairs Minister, accused Mr Netanyahu of hardline policies.

Mr Weizman, whose constitutional role is mainly ceremonial, has emerged as a key player in maintaining Arab-Israeli links. This week he hosted Yasir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, at his seaside

villa, and next week will fly to Cairo for a working lunch with President Mubarak.

Temple Mount is the epicentre of the tension because, as well as al-Aqsa, the third-holiest Islamic shrine, it is flanked by the Wailing Wall, the holiest place for Jews. The previous Labour Government gave permission

in January for the chamber — whose renovations are only days from completion — to be used for prayers during Ramadan and rainy periods when worshippers cannot pray in the courtyard of al-Aqsa. But Israel did not authorise the chamber's use as a mosque on a permanent basis.

Israeli archaeologists claim

renovations that could damage the site. Jewish extremists who seek the right to pray on Temple Mount have asked the Supreme Court to enforce the order. But Hassan Tahboub, the Palestinian Minister of Religious Affairs, said that any attempt to prevent the opening would provoke a "massacre".



Palestinians work on renovations to the hall on Temple Mount which they intend to open as a mosque

## France fetes African statesman

FROM BEN MACINTYRE  
IN PARIS



Senghor: celebrated on two continents

as Jean-Paul Sartre, Albert Camus and the future French President Georges Pompidou.

In the Second World War, he served in the French Army and was captured and imprisoned by the Germans. After the war he was elected to the French National Assembly.

Mr Senghor's life in France, from the age of 19 to 40, illustrated the strange position of an African scholar from a colony, at once part of France and separate from it. With Aimé Césaire from Martinique and Léon Damas of French Guiana, he developed the theory of "Négritude", emphasising the beauty of African culture and its role in a world civilisation that would otherwise, as he put it, "lack the rhythm section of its orchestra, the bass voice of its choir".

His books and poetry glorified in African culture but it was in the birthplace of his wife, Paulette, near Caen, that he chose to retire.

Unesco's Paris headquarters will host another celebration on October 18, to be attended by President Chirac and President Diouf. Mr Senghor is too frail to make the 120-mile journey.

minutiae figure smiled but said nothing.

Born in the fishing village of Joal-Fadiout on the Senegalese coast, where more grandiose

celebrations were held simultaneously, Mr Senghor was educated in French Catholic schools and studied at the Sorbonne, where he became friends with such luminaries

the way for a multi-party system that came into force two years before he stepped down to make way for a new generation of leaders".

His "African Socialism" steered a middle course between Communism and capitalism, just as his writings gave a uniquely African perspective to a French sensibility and education.

At Senegal's celebrations, President Diouf described Mr Senghor as one of "a race of empire builders, a pathfinder, a guide who takes you by the hand to lead you up high on the mountain."

His books and poetry glorified in African culture but it was in the birthplace of his wife, Paulette, near Caen, that he chose to retire.

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## Madrid pact on pensions

Madrid: In his first real triumph since taking office five months ago, José María Aznar, Spain's conservative Prime Minister, has brokered a "social contract" with the country's tough trade unions, guaranteeing pensions at present levels until 2000 [Tunku Varadarajan writes].

The deal, which had consistently eluded Felipe González, Señor Aznar's Socialist predecessor, is likely to ward off threats of a strike-ridden autumn of discontent. However, the main employers' associations opposed a pension pact.

## Italians imbibing the moderation message

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALIANS are drinking less wine despite their image as an alcohol-loving nation, according to official figures released yesterday.

The government-run Com-

mission for the Study of Alcohol and the Young said there

were 13 million Italians over 15

who did not drink alcohol,

over a quarter of the adult

population. Average wine con-

sumption has dropped from

104 litres per capita twenty

years ago to 55 litres.

Anecdotal evidence in the

bars and trattorias of Rome

and other main Italian cities

suggests many Italians are

still wedded to their wine

culture. Last weekend was

marked by numerous harvest

festivals in Italy's famous

wine-producing areas, with

fountains flowing with wine

and every available balcony

and statue covered in grapes.

On the other hand growing

consciousness of health haz-

ards, which has reduced ciga-

rette smoking, is also making

Italians more aware of the

drawbacks of excessive alco-

hol consumption.

Asterix answers call of Atlantis

BY BEN MACINTYRE

ASTERIX the Gaul came out of retirement yesterday in a new book with a record print run of eight million copies. He received the sort of tumultuous welcome France reserves for its national heroes.

The new Asterix volume is the first since 1991 and the thirteenth in a series that started in the magazine *Pilote* in 1959 and has since sold 280 million copies in 78 languages.

*Asterix and Obelix All At Sea*, in which the mustachioed warrior rescues his bulbous friend Obelix from the lost continent of Atlantis, went on sale yesterday in 15 languages after a complex operation to distribute the book throughout Europe without disclosing its contents.

Albert Uderzo has penned six Asterix books alone since the death of his collaborator, the writer René Goscinny, 19 years ago. He shocked Asterix fans in 1994 when he announced, after a long and exhausting legal battle with a former publisher, that he would never write another volume featuring the tiny Gaul. But with the launch of the new book he said: "I do not feel old enough to stop work."

British readers may be particularly taken with a new character, a high priest named Absolutelyfabulous.



The wily Gaul is back for a new adventure

**THE SUNDAY TIMES**

# THE LURE OF THE UNKNOWN

Bryan Appleyard explains why, from *The Prisoner* to *The X Files*, every generation has to find its own source of paranoia. In The Culture, this weekend

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# Taleban forced on to defensive by Afghan troops

THE Taleban Islamic militia fought off attacks by forces of the ousted Afghan Government on two crucial towns north of Kabul yesterday. The capital's main military airbase at Bagram came under ground assault; this was also repelled. But there is mounting concern for the security of Kabul.

The counter-offensive has taken Taleban unawares and its two-year march through Afghanistan has been halted. There are, however, no signs yet of it being forced to retreat — no heavy guns have been used and its main positions are intact. Taleban, however, has lost many men from small-arms fire.

The United Nations, worried about security in Kabul, is evacuating non-essential staff and the International Committee of the Red Cross is studying its next move. Foreign aid agencies are to meet today to decide what to do.

The mood in the Afghan capital has abruptly changed. The unaccustomed peace after 17 years of war has become almost sinister as Taleban soldiers patrol in Toyota pick-ups laden with rocket-launchers and Kalashnikovs. The bearded Islamic warriors are plainly upset by worsening news from the north and people are increasingly afraid



Christopher Thomas reports from Kabul on the mounting resistance to the Islamic warriors north of the capital

of them. Ahmed Shah Masood, the defence chief of the former Government, is targeting the towns of Jabal os-Siraj and Charikar which are on the Salang Highway linking Kabul with the north.

Shops were closed in Charikar yesterday and an anti-aircraft gun was positioned in the main street. A day earlier, there was no gunfire and the town was bustling — an indication of how fast Taleban's fortunes, as well as the public mood, have changed.

General Masood's men are fighting Taleban forces many miles south of the strategic Salang Tunnel, an area held exclusively by the Islamic army until a week ago.

The battlefield is shifting around the two towns and both sides are locked in close combat. Local people are afraid that big guns will be brought in.

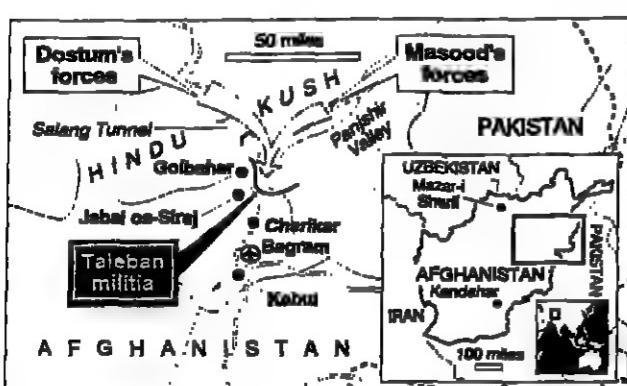
Gulbahar, at the mouth of the Panjshir Valley, where former government forces have taken refuge, remains

under Taleban's control. The siege of the valley, however, has stopped now that Taleban has been forced on the defensive on both battlefronts — at the Panjshir and the Salang Pass. There seems to be no prospect of the Islamic fighters achieving their dream of pushing north and smashing the remnants of the toppled Government.

General Abdul Rashid Dostum, the Uzbek leader in the north, is leaving most of the fighting against Taleban to General Masood, although there is plainly some kind of alliance between them. If General Dostum were to throw in the full weight of his huge military machine, Taleban could conceivably be driven back to Kabul 40 miles away.

The area around the Bagram airbase north of Kabul, held by Taleban, has been evacuated. Troops walk the streets with their Kalashnikovs, lecturing people about proper Islamic dress and behaviour. They are almost all illiterate — only Taleban's tenuous moral authority stops them turning to the Pashtun tradition of plunder. The mullahs who lead them are mostly illiterate — the product of madrasas (Islamic schools) that teach the Koran by rote.

Taleban is angry with foreign journalists, who have been accused of focusing on alleged abuses of women's rights while failing to emphasise that there were massive human rights abuses when Kabul was being rocketed by factions of the former Mujahidin fighters.



## Money men fix price of war

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

AFGHANISTAN'S state of mind can be gauged in a street alongside the Kabul River, where men carrying foot-high stacks of banknotes wander among a mélée of carpet sellers, fruit vendors and beggars, shouting: "Money changed".

This is the money market. News and rumours of the ebb and flow of battle variously strengthens and weakens the Afghani, the local currency, which is backed by absolutely nothing. The central bank is bombed and empty, the gold reserves long since plundered.

The money market had premises until a rocket destroyed them years ago, and business is now conducted by 20 or 30 cash-laden men amid the chaos of the street. Nobody ever attempts robbery, especially under the rule of the Taleban Islamic militia, which severs at least one hand of a captured thief.

Lorry-loads of Afghans

used to be delivered regularly to the former Afghan rulers by the Russian Government, which printed them under contract. Since Russia does not like Taleban, this no longer happens, and government money stores will soon be bare.

On the front of the notes is written "Afghanistan Bank", although it no longer exists. The money market used to be dominated by Sikhs, but they have fled in the face of growing hostility. Now the money-changers are mostly Pathans. Each morning they assess the prospects for peace or war and set the rate accordingly.

The Afghani soared to 10,000 for a dollar when it was felt that Taleban would impose nationwide peace, then plunged to 20,000 when it was feared there would be prolonged fighting in the north, possibly overflowing into Kabul. Yesterday, with nobody

sure which way events were going, it hovered nervously around 15,000.

The money market serves people who receive remittances from abroad as well as expatriate employees of international aid agencies. The amount of cash carried by a single money-changer is equal to years of earnings by a senior civil servant.

Money-changers are fussy men. They give a higher rate for the latest design of American banknotes because they are deemed harder to forge. And Afghans dislike well-thumbed money: anything found before 1990 is spurned.

General Abdul Rashid Dostum, the Uzbek warlord, keeps his people content by printing his own Afghani. Kabul's money-changers have an instinct for Dostum banknotes, which earn less on the Kabul money market, but in reality both types are worthless.

## New Zealand's baffled voters head for election night without end

FROM JO ANDREWS  
IN WELLINGTON

WITH New Zealanders set to vote tomorrow in their first election under proportional representation, it has become clear that no party will win an overall majority and that a coalition will have to be formed.

Sir Michael Hardin Boys, the Governor-General, has said that New Zealand may go into the new year without a new government. Sir Michael says parliament must meet by December 13. "After that New Zealand virtually closes down

[for the summer holidays] so there is no calamity if parliament meets and then adjourns until the new year."

Financial analysts here are also bracing themselves for the possibility of several weeks without a government. "It is going to be messy, we know that from the polls," said one.

The polls suggest that support for the National Party led by Jim Bolger, the Prime Minister, is dropping sharply. The latest figures put support for the National Party at 30 per cent; Labour, led by Helen Clarke, at 26 per cent; the left-of-centre Alliance at 17 per cent; and

the nationalist party, New Zealand First, at 13 per cent.

Political analysts are in their element. Colin James, one of the most respected commentators, says of the change to proportional representation: "This is the most difficult transition you could possibly have had. Every other change would have been simpler."

Another observer called the new system "the product of theoretical minds, not political ones".

The indications are that New Zealand will end up with a broadly right-wing coalition led by the National Party, or a

broadly left-wing one led by Labour. But either party could find itself with an interesting bedfellow.

The National Party might have to do a deal with the Christian Coalition, which is opposed to abortion as a "non-negotiable principle" and talks of "maintaining an upright justice system by defending Judeo-Christian values".

On the Left, Labour will have to come to terms with Winston Peters of New Zealand First. Mr Peters wants to cut immigration, repatriate migrants who break the law and stop foreigners buying land and other "strategic assets".

Voters appear confused at times with the choices on offer. Under the new system they have two votes, one for their local MP and a second for a party. The second of these are to be counted and apportioned on a national basis.

In Wellington Central there are 13 candidates and 14 parties. At times it is difficult to distinguish between genuine candidates and satirical ones. The Blokes Liberation Front, in favour of sending women out to work while men watch rugby and drink beer, is real, so is the McGillicuddy Serious Party, and the Marijuana Party.



A drunken Cambodian police officer takes aim at a photographer after his patrol boat stopped a Phnom Penh-bound ferry to extort money from the crew. Extortion by the police and military on the country's roads and waterways is endemic, and foreign tourists frequently find themselves caught in the middle

## China says fossil 'is oldest bird found'

BY NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

A FOSSIL more than 200 million years old may be the earliest ancestor of modern birds, Chinese scientists claim.

The fossil was found in Liaoning Province by a fossil hunter, Li Yumin. He took it to the Geology Museum in Beijing, believing it to be a dragon. Ji Qiang, director of the museum, determined that the fossil was that of a bird, and the oldest ever found.

The claim was published yesterday in the *China Daily*, and could not be confirmed by Western experts. Dr Angela Milner of the Natural History Museum in London said that in the absence of a proper scientific description, she was unable to offer an opinion.

The Chinese have given the fossil the name *Sinosauripteryx Prima*. In appearance it is closer to a land-based dinosaur, but it has a number of characteristics that prove the evolutionary link with birds, Mr Ji said.

"The forelegs show a definite tendency to developing towards wings," he said. "The key factor, however, was the discovery of feather-like imprints in the fossil."

## Inkatha men cleared of massacre charges

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN DURBAN

CRIES of delight rang out in the Durban Supreme Court yesterday when a judge acquitted five co-accused in the murder trial of General Magnus Malan, the former South African Defence Minister, and 15 others on the first day of judgment.

Questions have been raised about a conspiracy by the ANC Government as the trial has implicated members of the National Party and Inkatha.

The so-called KwaZulu massacre seemed unrelated, like so many others from the apartheid era, until a task unit was appointed by the Government to investigate hit squads in KwaZulu/Natal.

Shortly before the start of the trial, the State brought additional charges of conspiracy to murder which observers said reflected concern that the prosecution did not have enough firm evidence for murder convictions.

Mr Justice Hugo said yesterday there was little doubt that the attack was carried out by trainees from Caprivi but ruled that prosecution witnesses had not firmly identified the men as being at the scene of the attack, and the State had not proved they had conspired to murder ANC supporters.

The judge said claims by the men that they thought they were being trained to work in the KwaZulu/Natal force police had been backed up by a state witness and there was nothing to disbelieve their testimonies.



Malan arrives at court in Durban yesterday

## WORLD SUMMARY

### Rao faces three charges

Delhi: Citing security threats, P.V. Narasimha Rao, India's former Prime Minister, asked a judge yesterday to exempt him from appearing in court on Monday after he was arrested, then freed on bail.

Mr Rao, who resigned in disgrace as Congress Party leader last month, was arrested on Wednesday and faces three charges, including criminal forgery, which can carry a seven-year jail term.

Security threats mean he rarely appears in public and is always guarded by commandos with machine-guns.

### Suicide query for TWA families

New York: Investigators are to question the relatives of victims of the TWA disaster to see if the crash was caused by someone bent on revenge, fraud or even suicide (Quentin Letts writes).

It is now almost three months since Flight 800 crashed into the Atlantic off Long Island, killing all 230 people aboard the Boeing 747. Until now investigations have focused on the possibility of aircraft failure or terrorism.

### Court likely for Peking dissident

Peking: The family of Wang Dan was told by officials to hire a lawyer for him — a move described by Wang Lingyun, his mother, as preparation for a hearing, James Pringle writes.

Wang, one of the leaders of the 1989 pro-democracy protests in Tiananmen Square, was rearrested in May last year, having spent four years in jail.

### Fire destroys NBC offices

New York: Three hundred firefighters fought a blaze in the GE (General Electric) skyscraper in Manhattan's Rockefeller Centre and home to NBC broadcasting (Quentin Letts writes). The pre-dawn fire spread through five of the building's 70 storeys and injured 11 people. Many NBC offices were wrecked.

### Rapist is jailed for 17,088 years

Madrid: A court in Las Palmas has jailed a man for 17,088 years for raping his two stepsons more than a thousand times over seven years (Tunku Varadarajan writes). Judicial experts believe, however, that the man is likely to serve no more than 20 years.

### Tomato source

Cairo: A former convict who tried to give tomatoes stuffed with marijuana to an inmate on visiting day has been arrested and sent back to jail north of here after being caught by a guard (AFP).



Clarke facing coalition prospect

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# The great escape



Sailing to wider horizons: Wendy Richardson, Patrick Phelan, John Bankart, Sacha Crooks, Ellen Arnison and Sophie Thomas. All they have that many of us do not, is the guts to leave a dull life behind on the dockside

Last month, in *The Times*, we revealed that Holiday Hangover Syndrome was sweeping the nation: people have been returning from abroad, it transpired, even less willing to work than before they left. Psychiatrists, managers, and time-and-motion men united to shatter the ancient myth that a fortnight's break refreshes the jaded worker.

The response was enormous. From all over the country readers wrote in to agree with the diagnosis. "You keep saying you will pack it all in," wrote one, "but time goes on, you slot back into office life and it never happens. No matter what you say, you never actually do it."

Well, funny enough, some people do.

There is a boat, moored at Southampton, called *Creichtons Naturally*. The skipper, John Bankart, worked in menswear retail for nearly ten years before seeing the light and running away to sea. The boat is crewed by a farmer, a nurse manager, a journalist, an electrician and a computer systems project manager. They all – apart from one – left work for a short holiday, and never went back. The odd one out, by the way, is rather miserable about working again.

The boat is owned, furthermore, by a dentist called Stuart Bowen-Davies, who sold his network of practices to sail the world – the ultimate statement in down-sizing.

Life aboard is mellow. After a summer in Southampton, taking day-tripping businessmen out on the solent to "unwind", they are off to the Canary Islands in the next few days, and then on to the Caribbean for Antigua Race Week.

There is little to pressure them,

virtually nothing to irritate. Except for one thing: "It is the suits who come on for a day and tell us how lucky we are," says 25-year-old Sacha Crooks, speaking for all of them. "It is not luck at all. The more I see of these people the more I take from them the more miserable their lives are. And there is absolutely nothing to stop them doing the same as us."

I came straight back from Australia into a weekend of tedious management games and I thought to myself, "what am I doing here?" It was like one of those dreams when you find yourself naked in Tesco and have no idea how to make it to the beach.

Sitting around the table in the small cabin below deck, each of them told me how they had come to their big decision. For one it was a moral issue, for another it was boredom. For one it was insatiable wanderlust, for another it was a way out of an ailing business.

Dissatisfied with the quotidian humdrum, all they had that the rest of us do not was the guts to leave it all behind.

Their stories could have been – could still be – yours.

**SOPHIE THOMAS, 40**

*Former nurse manager*

I had been a nurse for 17 years, and a nurse manager for the past five of those. I was working 60-70 hours a week, and earning £28,000. I enjoyed my work but was finding my employers in the NHS more and more out of kilter with my own

moral values. I was just talking about money all the time.

I wouldn't have left on purely moral grounds. But a holiday in Australia in 1993 changed my life – largely, I think, because it takes so long to get there that I had to take four weeks off work to do it.

I came straight back from Australia into a weekend of tedious management games and I thought to myself, "what am I doing here?" It was like one of those dreams when you find yourself naked in Tesco and have no idea how to make it to the beach.

I had always planned to give up work at 40, and it had become something of a running joke. But while sailing in Antigua in 1994 I met Stuart Bowen-Davies and said: "You'll need a cook, and someone with medical experience." I got back to England in a cold May and thought "I can't hack another dreary English summer" so I handed my notice, and when I got home there was a fax on my desk from Stuart asking if I still wanted the job.

I earn much less than I used to and I sometimes go six weeks without a day off. It is the only job in the world from which someone

could say: "I might have to go back to nursing to get some money together." I also have two broken relationships – the last man said that if I was going to spend another year away then he wasn't waiting – but I'd rather do this than be a housewife in Chiswick.

**SACHA CROOKS, 25**

*Former farmer*

I grew up in the countryside around Ipswich, did a degree in agricultural management and then worked on a succession of farms and building sites. Last year and I found myself working on the same farm I had worked on every year since I was 12.

**T**he future seemed to hold 90-hour weeks for £13,000-a-year as a farm foreman, and I decided that if I was going to work long hours for terrible money it might as well be doing something I enjoyed, so I decided to move to the Caribbean where I met *Creichtons Naturally* and travelled back as cook.

I now earn less in a week than I used to earn in a shift, but my quality of life is so much better. I do a lot of reading – we all do – and I plan to write fiction on board, too.

days you might be working 23 hours on the boat, but when the weather is good you can sit out on deck and boost your tan.

Relationships are difficult to sustain with this way of living. But my girlfriend is coming out to the Caribbean for a while, and will stay on the boat. As for the future, I can say with my hand on my heart that I will never be a farmer.

**ELLEN ARNISON, 29**

*Former journalist*

A spell of yacht racing last summer led me to my decision to chuck in my job as News Editor of the *Big Issue* in Scotland. There had to be more to life than what is going on in the newsroom.

I was doing some subbing on the *Daily Star* in Scotland after that and knew that I would never want a career in newspapers – it is a very over-rated profession. I got a delivery job to the Caribbean where I met *Creichtons Naturally* and travelled back as cook.

I now earn less in a week than I used to earn in a shift, but my quality of life is so much better. I do a lot of reading – we all do – and I plan to write fiction on board, too.

I have come to realise that you can live your own life any way you want. Nothing should prevent you from doing your own thing.

**PATRICK PHELAN, 33**

*Former electrician*

I had a small yacht-fitting business which was making very little money, and I was sick of doing the same thing every day, struggling to make ends meet.

At first it was meant to be a year's break, but I can't see myself settling down again in the near future. I enjoy the long passages most of all. You just settle into a rhythm – you feel very independent. I am half curious about what is happening to my country (South Africa). I have been away more than two years.

**WENDY RICHARDSON, 33**

*Computer systems project manager*

I left school at 16 and went straight to work in Lloyds bank as a computer programmer. I just didn't see that you could do without a car, a house, a mobile phone, a personal computer.

The change came when I sailed to Rio in 1994 as a paying guest on a 23-day passage, and came back to repair the boat in Antigua I did my yachtmaster's certificate. I will never work in retail again. In fact, I can't even go into a shopping mall anymore. I say "stuff it all", life is out in the wide blue yonder, nothing but me and my boat. I have no worries, no car, just a house in Brisbane and a motorbike – no ties at all. If I suddenly decide I want a wife and a dog and a little house on the prairie, then I will do that.

to make some tough decisions – so I came back on this boat, to end it. I am buying up his part of our mortgage so I am having to put the sailing on hold while I earn some money. It may be forever, perhaps not. Who knows?

**JOHN BANKART, 37**

*Former shop manager, and captain of the yacht*

I went into menswear retail at 18 in a shop in New Zealand, where I lived, and worked my way up to senior sales manager.

I was earning about \$50,000 but eventually realised that I was spending 60 hours a week working to have five hours sailing on a Sunday. When I decided to quit it all in my friends said: "What, and give up your career, your car, your life insurance schemes? What will you rely on?" My response was: "If I need all that, then what am I really living for?"

Heading off for the South Pacific in a mate's catamaran. I got caught in a storm for six days and the boat broke up. In the six weeks it took to repair the boat in Antigua I did my yachtmaster's certificate. I will never work in retail again. In fact, I can't even go into a shopping mall anymore. I say "stuff it all", life is out in the wide blue yonder, nothing but me and my boat. I have no worries, no car, just a house in Brisbane and a motorbike – no ties at all. If I suddenly decide I want a wife and a dog and a little house on the prairie, then I will do that.



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Professor James Mirrlees is finally tracked down — and explains his passion for mysteries and micro-economics

# The strange case of the elusive laureate

I had read that the new Nobel laureate of economics was fond of "reading detective stories and other forms of mathematics" and for while I thought I was taking part in *The Mystery of the Missing Professor*. Bidden to Cambridge to meet Professor James Mirrlees, I arrived — slightly late owing to a dearth of taxis at Cambridge station — at his hall of residence, an outpost of Trinity College.

The porter telephoned his room. No answer. But he is expecting me, I said. We are to have supper at the Three Horseshoes in Madingley. Here the detective story took on overtones of Tom Sharpe. The porter said he would ask the manciple of Trinity whether the professor had dined in hall; the manciple reported that he had not. We persisted in our inquiries.

The local radio station reported that the professor had been there, but had left at 6.45pm. Perhaps he had gone straight to the Three Horseshoes? Yes, they said, the professor had booked a table for 7.30pm — but had later telephoned to say that his guest had missed her train, and that he might not make it at all! The plot thickened.

Throughout the evening, we continued to telephone the Three Horseshoes, and the professor's room. I read all the notices on the board in the porter's lodge: the menu for dinner in hall (poached salmon and duchesse potatoes), the lists of those awarded fellowships (including one for "research into the history of ideas"), and the instructions from the Housekeeper to the gyps (college cleaners and bedmakers), which included the warning: "Some ladies are getting a bus which gets you in college about 7.30am. Please refrain from doing this. Students do not wish to be woken at 7.00 or 7.30 by bedmakers chatting..." Well! I pondered on the pampered life of the undergraduate compared with the dismal obligations of the working hack.

The porter suggested I take the college bus to Trinity Great Court, where the head porter would ring round all the 34 colleges and ask whether Professor Mirrlees had been seen. The bowler-hatted porters of Trinity found this notion predictably hilarious. "It would be like finding a needle in a haystack," said one with a fine turn of phrase.

Eventually, mystified, I made for the last train home, after a final plea to the porter to put my card under the professor's door before going off duty. The last train arrived. I boarded. The whistle blew. We were about to draw out of the station. Then my mobile telephone rang; I leapt from the train. "Professor! Where are you?" "I am here, in my room," replied Professor Mirrlees, in his imperturbable Scottish burr, "where I have spent the entire evening."

And so the Nobel prizewinner, who has whitish hair, a round, benign, boyish face

and a manner that personifies gentlemanly charm, rescued me in his car. How had he not received the porter's calls? Why had he not come downstairs to find me waiting there? "I cannot work out any theory for why it happened," he replied ruminatively. "I took some fish out of the fridge at 9pm."

So we talked through the midnight hour in the University Arms Hotel (our order, a malt whisky for him and a glass of champagne for me, completely stumped the bar staff). A long search produced a lukewarm dram of Pommery, and would the gentleman like ice in his malt? We spoke of taxation, the "diversion" of the minimum wage, the alternative of employment subsidies, the dramatic increase in income from private pensions — as a micro-economist the professor sees things in terms of individual households — and of course, his prizewinning economic theory of "incentives under asymmetric information".

Though Cambridge is keen to claim its laureate, much of the professor's most important work was done in his years at Nuffield College, Oxford.

But two years ago his wife died of breast cancer, which was partly why he was keen to leave the Oxford house where they had brought up their daughters, and why he now lives in his bachelor rooms. With characteristic modesty he said he thought it "ridiculous" that Cambridge had offered him a chair at his age (he has just passed 60) instead of some lively young mind.

His approach is beaming, even jocular: "You enjoy paying tax, don't you, thinking of all the good it will do... ?

Would you vote for a system that squeezes the poor but lets you very well off? It wouldn't please me when I was a Christian and it wouldn't please me now."

(Professor Mirrlees ceased to be a Christian in about 1970, but seemed reluctant to elaborate on his art, shall we say.)

Unlike a Hayek or a Galbraith, he has written no best-selling books. "I am not a book writer; I find it too hard."

Could he explain to me simply his theory about tax? "I could put it in a diagram," he said, waving a hand. The gist of it is that progressive rates of taxation may harm incentives and efficiency: a zero tax rate on the highest incomes would be an incentive to work harder. If we knew that our higher earnings would be unmaxed, we would all be more industrious, instead of thinking "why bother?"

He is, you may surmise, a Labour Party man, but not a new Labour guru: one of his former students at Oxford assumes that role. "I have never voted for any other party. Because of a desire for egalitarianism, not for any great fondness for public ownership." He has no qualms about the shedding of labour that follows de-nationalisation: "People will get employed doing other things. That is the faith of economists which non-economists find hard to believe: there will be other jobs somewhere else."

That afternoon Peter Lilley had been talking again about the cost of benefit frauds.

"That sounds like the Tory party at bay," said Professor Mirrlees beaming. "Fraud is probably inescapable: another of those imperfections I like. If you pay money to the poor, you have to identify them. If you cannot do it perfectly, then you have to live with the problem. And if it is hard to get the money to the poor, then perhaps you have to spend more to get it to them."



Professor Mirrlees: "Things fall into my lap... I live a charmed existence... I am not sure that I have ever applied for a job in my life"



THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

tion" i.e. "making decisions in a situation of imperfect knowledge". "That just means not knowing as much as you would like. It is a term of our art, shall we say."

Unlike a Hayek or a Galbraith, he has written no best-selling books. "I am not a book writer; I find it too hard."

Could he explain to me simply his theory about tax? "I could put it in a diagram," he said, waving a hand. The gist of it is that progressive rates of taxation may harm incentives and efficiency: a zero tax rate on the highest incomes would be an incentive to work harder. If we knew that our higher earnings would be unmaxed, we would all be more industrious, instead of thinking "why bother?"

The professor had been preparing a lecture on Tuesday, when the telephone rang and a Swedish voice imparted the good news of his prize. "The speed of communication now is quite weird. It took me ten minutes to walk across the faculty and by that time my son-in-law had already seen it on his screen at Kleinwort Benson, where he is an analyst."

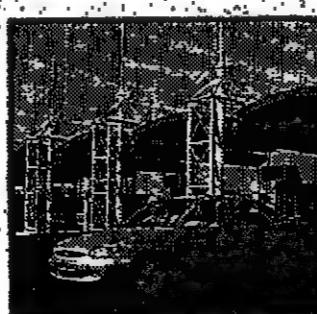
Professor Mirrlees was born in Minnigaff, Kirkudbright, elder son of a bank manager. His grandfather started work at seven; his father at 13. His younger brother left school at

"There's a long-standing economic theory," he added, "taken up by the political scientists, that there is no significant difference between the two main parties. Thatcher moved the Tory party to the right, which created more space for Labour; Labour maximises its vote by moving further into that space, pushing the Tories into a corner, as they hope they are doing. There is no serious risk of losing votes from the far left, but I think they have been induced to worry that even when things are looking good for them, they can still lose an election."

He is a man of simple needs. Just books — the detective novels of Rex Stout, P.D. James and John Dickson Carr — and music for his piano. He travels when invited to lecture, this year in Barcelona and Seville. "I thoroughly enjoy that side of being an academic."

"Things fall into my lap," he said contentedly. "I am someone who always finds a parking place, as my family will tell you. I live a charmed existence. The World Bank will ask me to attend a conference, and they pay decently, and things like that keep coming along. I am not sure I have ever applied for a job in my life."

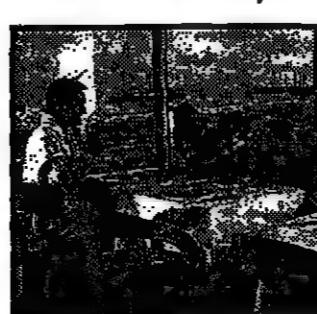
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Philip Howard

**■ How frolics and romps lost their innocence at our hands**

I am poised to crackdown [clampdown] on this shock frolicking and cavorting in the newspapers. This has been moved to the front-burner this week by the Princess Di spy video haze. The Chairman of the Press Complaints Commission has written to *The Times*, rapping, slammimg and possibly even lambasting [in a lordly way] the practice of videoing sex romps in a semi in Wandsworth and then passing the frolics off as having taken place at Highgrove in horsey Gloucestershire. But the vocabulary as well as the activity is interesting. Sex romps have been a tabloid euphemism for ages, unusual because the phrase is longer than sex, the word it represents. But frolic and cavort are recent recruits.

They are true journalists. For nobody other than newspaper sub-editors would think of using the words in their new meanings — yet. There is, however, some evidence (sociological as well as empirical) that readers of newspapers pick up the short, sensational language of headlines, and start using words such as *rap*, *probe*, *oust* and *quit* in real life off the page. In theory there should be no such dialect as journalism. Newspapers should be written in all the various registers of everyday speech and writing. And a big newspaper has many voices, that vary in style from sports to its law reports, and from columnists to leading articles. But only short words in the big type of headlines fit the narrow width of columns without "busting". So *grab* fits better than *confiscate*, and *axed* rather than dismissed. And the need to grab the attention of readers in the rush-hour demands vivid words rather than precise but boring ones.

Even the common intensifier "very" is an attention-grabbing word. There was a time when "very" was forbidden in *The Times*. And this might be a good rule to restore. "Very" hardly ever strengthens an adjective and often exaggerates. A very cold wind is in all probability only a cold wind; not Arctic. We might save two or three columns a year by excluding "very". But in giving up "very", we should not turn to "most" or "highly" or similar intensifiers by way of compensation.

*Cavort* was originally a *horsey* word from the Wild West, possibly a corruption of *curvet*. So its application to the activities in the video scam was exact. *Frolic* is a much older Teutonic word, originally meaning to make merry or gambol. Samuel Johnson was engrossingly fond of both the activity and the word. But when he wrote: "My mistress laughs, and frisks, and frolics all day long", he surely did not have in mind the innuendo of the journalistic use. Nor was there any of the shorthand nudge-nudge-wink-wink when Johnson wrote: "She was a better romp than any I ever saw in nature." But Johnson's bluestocking friend, Hester Thrale, could no longer reply to him: "Gentlemen romped with the girls of the house", without the risk of being improperly misunderstood.

By a mischievous coincidence, Steve Norris, the former Minister of Transport, is reading his autobiography on the radio for late-risers at the Tory conference. Apart from raising the question of how a fairly clever man does not have the self-awareness to see that his memoirs of a *romper*, both serial and synchronic, make him out to be an ass as well as a cad, Norris introduces a selection of the sexual euphemisms of journalists, including *rump-pump*. Scholars hesitate to derive this. Perhaps it comes from *romp*.

Journalists does exist, and can be useful, though the careful writer thinks twice before using it. Like all jargons, it is shorthand that saves time and covers a multitude of sins. It conveys hidden meanings and tone of the message, and gives the reader the comfortable feeling of being at home in stock royal *bonking* story No 94. It serves much the same purpose as conventional epithets in epic poetry. There Achilles is swift-footed every time he makes an entrance, and you cannot meet *Thetis* without being told for the umpteenth time that she is silver-footed as well as the daughter of the Old Man of the Sea. And as in newspapers, so in epic there are stock stories. In the former, "KILLER DOG STORM DRAMA", and in the latter, "They stretched out their hands to the food lying ready." The epic poets were using stock building blocks of oral poetry. So the journalists are using stock themes and phrases to tell their stories.

Robert Cranborne says Parliament must adapt, but any reform of the Lords must include the Commons

# Don't unbalance our unwritten constitution

The last 350 years have been a great age of constitution writing. Virtually every constitution has proceeded from a declaration of first principles to a pretty detailed set of mechanical arrangements which attempt to remain consistent with the first principles.

To my mind this approach is fraught with difficulty. Man is not a perfectible beast, so how can a declaration of first principles itself be the embodiment of perfection — unless it has been drafted by God, not man? If the first principles are faulty, then the mechanical arrangements will be even faultier, because, however hard we try, they cannot but imperfectly reflect the principles from which they are derived. There is therefore a built-in gearing effect that magnifies the faults in the transmission from principle to application. Equally, the system is inherently inflexible by definition when changing times demand constitutional evolution.

There is another difficulty too. Constitutions of this kind are the creation of governments. Citizens are thus, by definition, the servants of the State, because their freedoms are bestowed upon them by the State. Those freedoms are defined by the government and the constitution. Their rights are given them by the State.

The British approach has been fundamentally different. Lord Donaldson put it far better than I could in the course of a wonderful speech he made last year in the House of Lords:

In this country our approach to human rights is, and always has been, different from that of many others. It is a difference of which I personally am very proud. It lies in the fact that in this country the citizen does not have to identify any right to justify his conduct. He has a total freedom of conduct unless restrained by law; and it is for those who complain of his conduct to identify which law it is which interferes with his freedom. He has no need of a list of freedoms, or rights of freedom. He has them anyway.

It occurs to me that we may be the only man on parade in Europe who is in step. The only things that constrain the freedom of the Queen's subjects are the Common Law and the provisions of statute.

An unwritten constitution is by definition flexible. You need only pass a law to change it. It assumes that the status quo is not perfect because to change it is easy if there is a parliamentary majority for doing so. Evolution, rather than revolution, is built into the system. Evolution also ensures a sense of continuity and a sense of history, so

important for a sense of nationhood.

Continuity, evolutionary change, electoral authority — these add up to flexibility. This means that we can always change to meet new challenges.

We do not need constitutional dirigisme any more than we need economic dirigisme.

Dead men are the ultimate authority for written constitutions. It is hardly surprising that we find it difficult to express the needs of today in the language of the dead. But in Britain the ultimate authority is the living electorate. It gives Parliament the right to exercise sovereignty and to allow the Government to exercise power, and, if necessary, to adapt the constitution to the circumstances of the day. The electorate is the guardian of Burke's compact between the dead, the living and the yet unborn.

I am more doubtful, however, about whether Parliament has yet adapted to the demands of today. The Prime Minister drew attention to some of what worries me in the lecture on the

constitution that he delivered with such enthusiasm this summer. If the principles on which Parliament is founded are sound, there is clearly dissatisfaction about how they are applied.

Opponents of conservative principles faster upon this dissatisfaction and use it to justify proposed constitutional reforms, which are based at best on the corporation of the 1960s and the details of which they signal fail to elaborate. I am increasingly inclined to think the question the electorate should ask of Mr Blair is: "Yes, we know you are in favour of motherhood and against sin, but what would you put in the Bill you laid before Parliament?"

We Tories can be satisfied that our constitution is soundly based and suitable for the coming century. At the same time, it is not good enough to rely on the great Duke of Wellington's approach to matters constitutional. To suggest that our present arrangements are the embodiment of perfection is profoundly un-Tory, since we believe neither in the perfeability of man nor in

*This is an extract from the Politeia lecture, delivered last night at Bournemouth by Lord Cranborne, the Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Lords. The full text will be published by Politeia as a pamphlet.*

# God, me and Dr Dawkins

Scientists don't know and nor do I  
— but at least I know I don't know

Once again, I marvel when I see a copy of *Index*, and I marvel even more when I see the name in full: *Index on Censorship, the Magazine for Free Speech*.

The reason I marvel is that each of its yearly six issues manages to cram so much into 192 pages, photographs and all. Now for those who have not encountered *Index*, let me tell you that its title means what it says, and that includes lands in which a mere spoken or written few words can come close to death, let alone 192 pages. One section of *Index*, in every issue, gives a complete alphabetical list of countries in which there has been censorship: from Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia ... to Uruguay, the USA, Uzbekistan, Yemen, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

But *Index* does much more. It takes, for instance, one country, and looks deeply into that country's state of democracy, if any. And it takes up the cases of many innocents who are in, or about to be in, prison.

I have written about *Index* before; but I have never hitherto dared to poke my nose into what I have never seen in *Index* — for the simple reason that *Index* has never dared to poke its nose into the subject. And what is it that makes *Index* go tiptoe over the ice, and makes my eyes to gleam? Look at the cover: in large letters, it announces the remarkable claim that *God Is Not Dead*.

There will be fireworks by nightfall, I tell you, and first into the arena is John Tusa (not a man to see angels in the sky), who strikes the gong with "They say God is dead. Why won't He lie down?", Tusa continues with his own magnificently bald argument.

Mark derided it as a delusion; Freud regarded it as an immature delusion. Sceptics dismissed it as unverifiable fantasy; humans as evasion of grown-up confrontation with life. Religion should, on these terms, have had little or no part to play in the life of the late twentieth century. A belief in Progress now replaced a belief in Paradise tomorrow. Science could prove that the "answers" offered by religion were untrue, and that faith could not move mountains, nor would mountains move mountains, nor would Mohammedans, God's protectors, be consigned to hell by its absence in the trenches of the Somme. In the gas ovens of the Nazi extermination camps, and in a score of other twentieth-century atrocities, Jesus might have told his disciples to "suffer the

little children to come unto me", but, in our more enlightened times, the emphasis seemed to be more on the suffering and not on the protective embrace offered by the Saviour.

All that is true, yet as the millennium comes closer, not only do the waves of belief remain, but they swell more greatly and come ever closer. This is not a matter of larger families, let alone a fear of the millennium itself, as the same fear rose a thousand years ago at the last millennium. It comes from the depths of actual religion in its reality, however thin. But that does not answer the question. If more people are moving towards their churches and their mosques and their synagogues, what is the reason for that trek? The Chief Rabbi has put it concisely, saying, "I don't think there would have been a single social observer in the year 1900 who would have predicted that religion and religions would be as strong in the world today and, indeed, even in the liberal West, as they are." Very true,

but the reason is more important than the fact, and the fact is still to be found. The argument — is there a God or is there not? — is raging, and that can hardly be a coincidence. What has provoked this most tremendous of arguments? Well, for one, the people who believe their religion most seriously, are, of course, of the religion of Islam. It is a wonderful religion, but it is notoriously marred by the savage and dreadful fanaticism that some of its people stoop to. (It is raging dreadfully as I write.) But then, to soften the wound, what about a tiny phrase that leaps out of the Koran: "If all the trees in the world were pens, and all the oceans ink seven times replenished, still the word of God could not be written?"

I come back to the argument that is raging: Is there a God? Well, a great part of the raging comes from Dr Richard Dawkins, who does not believe that there is, or could be, a God; but I think Dr Dawkins shouts too loudly when he makes his powerful case against God. Mind you, he is a distinguished scientist, and he takes his argument seriously. For instance, a bus turned over and many people were killed or injured. Dawkins considered the tragedy:

If the universe were just electrons and selfish genes, meaningless tragedies like the crashing of a bus are exactly what we should expect, along with equally meaningless good fortune. It would manifest no intention of any kind. In a universe

of blind physical forces and genetic replication, some people are going to get lucky... There is at bottom no design, no evil and no good, nothing but blind pitiless indifference.

A powerful argument, but sometimes it turns into farce, as when we are told by a professor of chemistry at Oxford, Peter Atkins, that "It is not possible to be religiously honest and believe in gods. And it is not possible to believe in gods and be a true scientist." Never mind that some of the greatest scientists in history, not to say many of the scientists working today, do believe in God; but when I read such stuff I cannot but think that some of those almost hysterical claims are buried five fathoms deep, the opposite of what they preach — that is, they believe despite themselves, but cannot admit it. (And never mind that hundreds of millions of people all over the world, with no orders or demands, pray to a god.)

Now where do I stand in this catalogue? Well, obviously not in the ranks of atheism. Dr Dawkins makes a persuasive case, but write as he might, he can only say that there is but blind pitiless indifference in the universe.

Actually, he is automatically cheated; if he is right, and there is no God or anything else, he can't say "I got it right", because he will be dead. And if he is not dead, he got it wrong. There are many, of course, who deride those who pray, and yet on their deathbed ask for the rites. I would not think of jeering at such turncoats; rather, I would applaud.

Dr Dawkins must shake his head wearily when he surveys the huge numbers of worshippers in our sacred places, but he must come close to bursting when he wonders (though of course he doesn't) about the enormous numbers of religions that there are in our world, from the Christians and Jews and Muslims all the way to M'shima M'shima. He would reply, of course, by saying that what goes for Christianity goes for any other religion; but don't the sheer numbers count?

Never mind Dr Dawkins for a moment. Why is there today such a substantial discussion of religion and its effects? Yards and yards of columns in many papers discuss the idea of God or brush it aside, or gingerly put a toe in the water and find that it doesn't hurt. And after all, the 60 pages on the subject in *Index* ranged from the United States

to Russia, and from India to Israel, and from Algeria to Afghanistan. True, I am evading the question. I am asked: where do I stand when I see men and women going into churches, mosques and synagogues, and shuffle my feet and look the other way.

Of one thing I am certain: I do not, and never will, line up with the Dawkinses and their wafer-thin certainties. And if I did stop shilly-shallying and come off my very low horse, I think I would be throwing down my glove on the doorstep of the Anglican persuasion. But I am evading the question again. I am convinced that there is more to our tiny spot called life, and that somewhere, somehow after death, we live again. I like the Buddhist idea of repeated reincarnations until all the dust of humanity is burned away. (Wouldn't it be a lark if Dawkins were turned into a Buddhist and took millions and millions of incarnations to get the message?)

Well, if God is not dead, He is making a considerable stir. I am eager to see whether these substantial arguments that we have been treated to will continue or peter out. Ask Ecclesiastes: "All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full."

ing those of his former press secretary, Gus O'Donnell.

Asked about their leader's invariably white shirts, Tony Blair's officers replied simply: "Mind your own business."

## Lion king

LOVE rather than dung vapour is in the air at London Zoo, where the female Asiatic lion, Ruchi, has been matched up with a mate once more. She has been alone since the demise of Arifur, the Hugh Hefner of the lion world. Jake,

stud from Chester Zoo, has been brought in to entertain Ruchi. Since their first meeting on Tuesday, their attentiveness to each other has not been a spectacle for the bashful.

"When we opened the door she just threw herself at him," says Douglas Richardson, assistant curator of mammals. "They've been inseparable ever since. And she's not even properly on heat yet. When that happens, probably in a couple of weeks it'll be very noisy around here."

All being well, the pair's goatish behaviour will culminate in cubs by the new year.

## Sisterly

TELEPHONES in the Vatican press office have fallen silent recently. Not, however, as a result of an ebbing interest in the Pontiff's recovery after his appendicitis operation, but because concerned callers have found they get a far less guarded account from the nuns on the Vatican switchboard.

The multinational and multilingual sisters are, it appears, far more expansive about the Pope's condition than the tightlipped press office. Calling the Holy See yesterday afternoon, one of the nuns on duty, a German, verged on the gar-



# Backslappers

BORED of attacking the BBC, the Conservatives have turned their rage on ITN. In Bournemouth on Wednesday afternoon, following ITN's lunchtime bulletin, Dame Sue Tinson, ITN's associate editor, was collared by Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman.

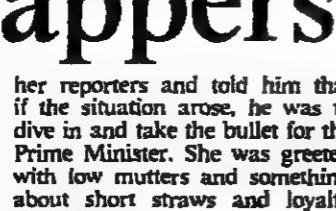
He was informed of the Prime Minister's deep displeasure with ITN's coverage of his question and answer session on Wednesday morning. Certain good soundbites were not included and particularly offensive was the reporter's line: "John Major took off his jacket in the style of Tony Blair."

After her earwagging, the order went out from Tinson to the guilty young reporter to sort out the problem — or else he would not be admitted to ITN's party that evening. Later reports took into account the chairman's comments, and the Prime Minister duly graced the ITN party.

As the PM touched and giggled his way round the party, however, the lights went out, plunging the marquee into darkness. The Prime Minister's goons swarmed around their ward until the lights came on. Dame Sue then called to one of



"I was told the Estonian team had signed off"



"No one can accuse Ted Turner"

Teddy" Turner IV. Turner Sr., who founded CNN before marrying Jane Fonda, employed his son as the promotions manager for the home video unit of Turner Broadcasting System Inc. With rumours about job cuts in the air, Teddy grew anxious and finally broached the subject at a family dinner. His father's response was rugged: "You're toast." So now Teddy is just another victim of corporate downsizing.

Cloth to fit

LATEST client at the shrine of high Tory tailoring, Redwood & Feller in London, is the Shadow Chancellor, Gordon Brown.

Mr Roland of Redwood & Feller makes suits for Douglas Hurd, Ian Lang and perhaps most famously cuts Bill Cash's go-faster pinstripes.

"I was telephoned and told that a very important person wanted some alterations done to his suits," Roland told a customer recently. "but he was too busy and important to come into the shop. Blimey, I thought, I make suits for a lot of important people and they all come in. This one must be some Sheikh or the Prime Minister or something."

"I was asked to come to this VIP's flat, which I don't often do. When I arrived and Mr Brown emerged, frankly I was crestfallen."

Brown is having to have his suits taken in after shedding pounds in his recent fitness drive.

## Shirty!

WITH ministers removing their jackets at every opportunity at the Tory conference, shirts have taken on a new prominence. John Major, it emerges, wears shirts from Marks & Spencer.

They cost about £25 and are chosen for him by Norma, doubtless with input from their son James, an employee of M&S. The Prime Minister used to be renowned for never taking enough shirts on foreign trips and borrowing shirts from foreign trips and borrow-



Brown: unexciting

DI



## THE GREASY POLE

In Bournemouth, the interests of ambition and loyalty coincide

This week, publicly at least, the Tory party has rediscovered its discipline. The very same representatives who cheered Lord Tebbit on the fringe gave Kenneth Clarke a standing ovation yesterday in the conference hall. "Unity, unity, unity", in Michael Portillo's words, is the main aim. But it is a funny sort of unity, meaning different things to different people.

To John Major, and to the activists who are fiercely loyal to him, it means casting aside divisions on Europe, rallying around the thin Cabinet line on a single currency and joining forces to attack Labour. To Cabinet ministers with their eye on the leadership election after the general election, it means proclaiming eternal devotion to Mr Major now, in the fairly sure knowledge that he will not be leader this time next year.

In past years, it was important for leadership contenders to show how different they were from the Prime Minister — after all, in any contest, they would have to challenge him. Now the calculation has changed. Mr Major can be treated like an ailing granny, indulged because he will not be around for long. The pretenders will be fighting each other, not him.

Luckily for the Prime Minister, his interests and those of the ambitious colleagues who surround him coincide. He needs their support. They are happy to lend it because next year, if he loses, they will be rewarded for loyalty, not treachery. He needs public unity if he is to have a chance at the next election. They too want to maximise the number of Tory seats; none wants to be leader of a much diminished party. And, should the unthinkable happen and the Tories win again, they would rather be Cabinet ministers in government than a leader in opposition.

The difference between this year's conference and last is not that dissension has

ceased to exist. On the fringe, there is still passionate support for Euro-sceptics who oppose the single currency and sometimes even call for complete withdrawal from the EU. But in the hall, these feelings are no longer whipped up by sceptics from the Cabinet. Mr Portillo was notably low-key yesterday, after two consecutive years of firebrand anti-Brussels speeches. Both Peter Lilley and Michael Howard attacked Europe, but were careful not to overset the Cabinet line. Even John Redwood has been muted this year.

There is still a sense, though, that the candidates are auditioning in Bournemouth for the role of leader. They deliberately stray from their departmental briefs. They end with rousing perorations about "Britain united", "our historic mission", "a great society", a "British renaissance". Implicitly, the audience is invited to imagine them standing in John Major's place on this day next year.

If these ministers were genuinely loyal, they would not be contemplating defeat. They would be talking of a fifth term, peppering their speeches with hints of the manifesto to come, as the Tories always used to do in the conference before an election.

Instead, the furthest they have lifted their eyes in public is to the truncated Queen's Speech next month. In private, they assume defeat and talk readily of the merits (and otherwise) of their rivals for the top job.

The Conservatives have become the hollowed-out party. Mr Major's desire for unity is heartfelt. So is that of his activists, even if they are dissatisfied with their party's policy on Europe. The Prime Minister and his troops are genuinely fond of one another. But in between lies a group of politicians who are thinking of their own prospects, not his. To them, Mr Major is the past; the future might just be theirs.

## HADRIAN'S CANAL

Is there a need for a white elephant to cross the Pennines?

Anything that reduces the thunder of lorries through Britain's loveliest villages and spurs economic regeneration in depressed areas deserves scrutiny. The ambitious proposals, submitted yesterday to the North of England Councils Association, for a £6 billion scheme to build a cross-country ship canal linking Carlisle to Newcastle-upon-Tyne, should therefore be looked at seriously. Derek Russell, the retired engineer leading the consortium that is proposing the Western Water Highway, claims that the new lakes it would create in the Pennines would also boost local tourism and create 300,000 jobs.

The scheme is certainly ambitious. Cutting a gorge through the Pennines roughly where Hadrian built his wall, it would use the latest canal and lock technology and perhaps revive waterways throughout Britain. The scheme would be a bold plan to ramp Britain's infrastructure at a time when lack of vision and the constraints of tight Treasury funding have virtually killed the initiative for the kind of big scale engineering works that gave us Britain's canal network almost 200 years ago.

Unfortunately, the proposal is utterly impractical. The first, and most basic flaw, is that there is no proven need. As David Werner points out in our letters columns, there is only modest traffic between the Irish and the North Seas, and no serious need for a short cut from the Irish Sea to the Continent. The suggestion that Newcastle could win a new role as an entrepôt at a time when traffic patterns will increasingly be determined by the exploitation of the Channel Tunnel and the road links to ports in the South East is to fly in the face of economic and demographic sense.

Secondly, the cost is out of all proportion to the proven benefit. The canal would be a

white elephant far larger than any such species engendered by the Humber Bridge. Mr Russell has indeed drawn attention to the poor existing transpennine links: but for a fraction of the money his consortium would spend, the road and rail links could be upgraded. There is a perfectly good but underused line that runs from Newcastle to Carlisle via Haltwhistle; with new container technology, the line could be adapted, if necessary, to allow piggy-back traffic to move from the west coast to ships sailing to Scandinavia and the Continent. The plan for a parallel motorway also undercuts the very raison d'être for the canal: if that much capacity is added to the east-west route, the canal itself will be superfluous.

The premise that such a canal would revive water transport in Britain is manifestly untrue. British canals, unlike those in France, Germany and the Low Countries, are too few and too narrow to play more than a marginal role in freight transport. A few, such as the Manchester Ship Canal and the recently opened canal between the Humber and Leeds, serve specific cities; but there would be no point in building a fleet of deep-draught barges and intermodal facilities if there is no national network which these could also serve.

Finally, there is the damage the scheme would do to the environment. This should not be an absolute veto on every new project: not every open space or breeding ground can always be protected. The canal would not cross any standing sections of Hadrian's Wall. But to threaten, if not destroy, the shallow waters of Morecambe Bay and the Solway Firth would ruin the habitat of 300,000 native and migratory birds. The pink-footed geese are worth saving: this lame duck of a project is not.

## DEUTSCHEMARKS AND SPENCER

Coronation chicken, sandwiches and lingerie hit Germany

The Schildergasse in Cologne will never be the same again. The thoroughfares of Germany with their regulated and protected stores have finally been hit by Margaret Thatcher's favourite institution — Marks & Spencer, as well as one of her best dishes, coronation chicken. Already dark rumblings of protest from the domestic retail market suggest that they know the game is up. The final triumph of St Michael, patron saint of pre-packed sandwiches, soft clothing, and distinguished green plastic bags, is now merely a matter of time.

For once, the British have stolen a march over Herr Kohl and his federalist cohorts. Soon Germany will be flooded with the soft ECU. Extremely Comfortable Underwear. The presence of our flagship company on the Continent has been established for some time. In France, the fashionable classes have long been seduced by *Les M&S and Sparks*. While it cannot be claimed that the Gallic fashion houses have been swept aside, the sandwich section of the empire is all the rage. No self-respecting Parisian would be seen buying the traditional *Stollen*, and the staff may well learn lessons from customers about the frugality of *Abendbrot*, the evening meal consisting of slices of German bread and salami or cheese.

The company could be a role model for the Conservative Party in its quest for a European policy capable of widespread consensus. For Marks & Spencer is a microcosm of the sort of single market Thatcherites might applaud. In Britain, the store's shelves now heave with Italian olive bread and interesting Greek starters providing a range of choice unknown even a decade ago. Now Germany will benefit from the new cultural experience this branch of M&S will bring, and will be able to enjoy a taste of real European integration, far more meaningful than political treaties and bureaucratic edicts. Today M&S opens on the Rhine; next stop, perhaps, the German capital, Berlin.

The especially admirable aspect of the M&S strategy is their refusal to bend to local sensibilities. The store in Cologne will be

virtually identical to those in Cardiff or Coventry. It has developed a new slogan especially for the German market — *Kein Kaufhaus, Weltanschauung* — not a department store, but a world philosophy. The German staff have been flown over to Britain to ensure that they are schooled in the traditions of M&S. Among their duties will be to demonstrate to the *Hausfrau* not only the differences in cuisine, but also the finer points of British customer care.

They will, no doubt, take trouble to explain the origins of a Christmas pudding as opposed to the traditional *Stollen*, and the staff may well learn lessons from customers about the frugality of *Abendbrot*, the evening meal consisting of slices of German bread and salami or cheese.

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دكتور من الأصل

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### 'Fudge' and 'appeasement' on single currency options

From Mr P. J. Claridge

Sir, The Prime Minister's statement of his position on a single currency ("We must not allow EMU to be judged", October 5) ended:

If we decide to go ahead in the next Parliament we would consult the British nation in a referendum and accept their verdict. If we think it right to stay out, we will do so.

So, no referendum if a Conservative Government decides against joining.

In his desire to appear the present sizeable anti-single currency constituency and to draw the electoral sting of Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party, Mr Major appears either to have overlooked, or deliberately ignored, the possibility of the balance of opinion swinging in favour of joining a single currency when the time comes to decide.

In what he rightly calls "one of the most important economic and political choices to face this country in decades" should not the electorate be given the opportunity to override the Government's choice — whatever it may eventually be? Fudge. Mr Major?

Yours faithfully,  
P. J. CLARIDGE,  
Leylands, 20 Ham Road,  
Wanborough, Wiltshire.  
October 8.

From Mr Jeremy Grindle

Sir, Anyone involved in negotiation is aware of two principles: if you start by stating publicly your unalterable commitment to one position, then your influence will be minimal; if the terms on which negotiation will be concluded are greatly in doubt, then you cannot evaluate in advance the benefits

and costs to your own organisation.

When one sees the way in which the views of our European partners are evolving, it seems blindingly obvious that "negotiate, wait and see" is the correct policy. Those who urge that we should decide before negotiations are complete have lost sight of these simple principles.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
JEREMY GRINDLE,  
Village Cottage, Shore Road,  
Bosham, Chichester, West Sussex.  
October 8.

From Sir Anthony Meyer

Sir, Mr Malcolm Rifkind says in his speech to the party conference that there are no Conservative federalists.

I am certainly not the only Conservative who believes that those things which are best done at European level should be done at that level; that those things which are best done at national level are best done at that level; but also that those things which are best done at local level should be done at that level.

When this concept is expressed in an institutional structure it is called federalism, and I support it.

I am, etc,  
ANTHONY MEYER  
9 Cottage Place, SW3.  
October 9.

From Sir Peter Marshall

Sir, Mr Redwood (article, October 7) is surely right to point to the scope for determined British diplomacy in the present European situation.

EMU devotees throughout Europe must be acutely conscious of the vulnerability of the Maastricht enter-

prise. But they will not readily heed valid British criticisms of it if we say in effect that we are not going to join anyway.

The realities of interdependence put us inescapably at the heart of Europe. We are not simply agitated bystanders. We share the vital common interest in the fruitful evolution of the European Union. This will not be helped by attempts to distort the facts to fit the letter of the treaty.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER MARSHALL,  
26 Queensdale Road, W1.  
October 7.

From Mr Christopher Johnson

Sir, Simon Jenkins (article, October 9) says that my book, *In with the Euro, out with the Pound*, is not convincing. He argues that the economic benefits of a currency union "can be achieved by sovereign self-discipline". Why does he think that the sovereign United Kingdom can suddenly practise self-discipline when it has manifestly failed to do so for the last half-century?

The Bank of England's recent attem-

pts to control interest rates have been overruled by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, as is provided for under the post-1993 monetary regime.

The European Central Bank, while accountable to politicians, will not be subject to this kind of political over-

ride. If Simon Jenkins wants to make use of Occam's razor and cut out unnecessary empires, he should apply it to national currencies.

Yours etc,  
CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON,  
39 Wood Lane, N6.  
October 9.

### Plans for English 'Panama canal'

From Mr David Werner

Sir, Your report on the plan for an English "Panama Canal" linking Carlisle to Newcastle upon Tyne (October 7) properly emphasises the enormous ecological threat that this scheme poses to a large and precious part of the English countryside. It did not, however, seriously address the economic feasibility of what is in my view a preposterous and unnecessary project.

Such freight volumes as can be realistically predicted for the waterway deny it any prospect of viability let alone its suggested capacity to create 300,000 jobs.

The modest traffic between the North and Irish Seas is adequately handled by existing road and rail links which could be cost-effectively improved if any need arose. One should further ask how Mr Dennis Russell's consortium intends to finance not only the construction of the canal but the associated undertakings of a new motorway running the entire length of one of Europe's most beautiful coastlines, and the demolition or enlargement of major bridges.

As for a shortcut route from the Irish Sea to the Continent, one must seriously question whether Newcastle, several hundred miles west of Denmark, really fits the bill. The English Channel, south-eastern ports and, increasingly, the Channel Tunnel will continue to be in an unassailable position, for both economic and geographical reasons, as conduits for freight between Britain and Europe.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID WERNER,  
34 Clyde Road, N2.  
October 7.

Breeding success

From Mr John Gudgeon

Sir, The encouraging news you reported from the RSPB (news in brief, early editions, October 7) concerning breeding success of some of our rarest large raptors needs to be seen in context. In the case of the golden eagle, for example, typically three-quarters of this year's young will die before they reach breeding age in five years' time.

Larger species commonly raise but one chick per year. Some of them, including golden eagle, are highly vulnerable to disturbance and the length of the breeding cycle is such that, if the first attempt fails, no second attempt is made. There is no room for complacency.

Yours sincerely,  
J. GUDGEON,  
2 Clackclose Road,  
Downham Market, Norfolk.  
October 7.

### Jude's obscure origins

From the Editor of Dorset magazine

Sir, Your review of the film *Jude* (Arts, October 3) is generally fair both to author, Thomas Hardy, and director Michael Winterbottom. It would be incorrect, however, to suggest any unfaithfulness in Mr Winterbottom for his settings.

Jude the Obscure himself lived far from Hardy's "Inner Wessex". His home at "Marygreen" was based on that of the author's paternal grandmother, which was at Fawley, near Wantage, in Berkshire. The "Brown House" on the downs (actually the Red House) has since been demolished (*Hardy's Wessex Locations*, F. P. Pittfield, Dorset Publishing Co, 1992).

At any event, it is doubtful if Winterbottom could have created a suitably austere canvas with authentic locations in what now comprises London's green belt. Edinburgh also makes a far more convincing 19th-century Oxford.

As for Kate Winslet's performance, Hardy would have warmly approved — given his old-age infatuation with Gertrude Bugler as the stage Tess.

Yours sincerely,  
RODNEY LEGG,  
Editor, Dorset magazine,  
Fonthill Farmhouse,  
Dorchester, Dorset.  
October 4.

### No longer royal

From Professor Stefan Ionescu and Professor Mihaela Ionescu

Sir, Further to Mr Brooks-Baker's letter (October 2), we note that your report of September 23 on the marriage of Princess Margarita of Romania to actor Radu Duda referred to the Princess's mother, the wife of ex-King Michael, as Queen Anne. This is quite incorrect.

Anne de Bourbon-Parme married Michael one year after he abdicated at the end of 1947. In *Burke's Royal Families of the World* (1977) she is listed as Princess Anne, and in America, England, Romania and France she is almost invariably referred to thus. She was never crowned.

Under Romanian law any member of the royal family who marries a Romanian commoner must obtain the

permission both of the Government and the head of the family. Margarita has obtained neither. Her father gave up all rights for his heirs when he abdicated; and he lost his status as head of the family when he was defeated by his older brother, Carol, in the Portuguese Supreme Court in 1955, the French courts in 1957 and 1963, and in the Romanian courts in 1995.

Both the Government of President Iliescu and the opposition party leaders have stated that they have not given Margarita permission to use her former title, so she has tragically forfeited that right.

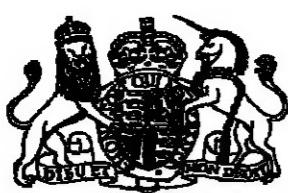
With esteem,  
STEFAN IONESCU,  
M. J. IONESCU,  
Historical Literary Agency,  
25 Cristofor Columb Str.,  
Bucharest and Iasi, Romania.  
October 3.

### Missing guide

From Mr Peter Townsend

Sir, At the foot of his letter of October 2 Mr Brooks-Baker describes himself as Publishing Director of *Burke's Peerage*. I can only wonder why he does not direct someone into publishing this book again.

I was the editor of the last *Burke's Peerage* (1970) and of two volumes of a *Burke's Landed Gentry* series which ended in 1972 — since when silence. Whatever the fate of the House of Lords



## COURT CIRCULAR

## BUCKINGHAM PALACE

October 10: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh today attended a Service of Inauguration of a Memorial Stone to Innocent Victims in Westminster Abbey and were received by the Dean (the Very Reverend Michael Mayne).

During the Service Her Majesty unveiled the Memorial Stone, and The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh subsequently laid a Wreath.

His Royal Highness, Patron and Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, this afternoons gave a Luncheon at the Palace.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President and Honorary Life Fellow, Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, this evening presented the 1990 Albert Medal and attended a Dinner at St Bride's Institute, London EC4.

**THATCHETT HOUSE LODGE**

October 10: Princess Alexandra this afternoon opened Phase II of the Woking Community Hospital, Heathside Road, Woking, and was received by Her Majesty's Lieutenant of Surrey (Mr Richard Thornton).

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**

October 10: The Princess Royal, Patron, Riding for the Disabled Association, today attended a Council Meeting at Saddlers' Hall, Gutter Lane, London EC2.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**

October 10: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon was present today at the Barbican Hall at the Annual Council Meeting of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**

October 10: The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, National Ashma Campaign, this morning attended the Asthma Gift Fair at the Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, London SW6.

In the afternoon Her Royal Highness, Patron, National Mission of Help, attended a Service of Thanksgiving and Communion at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, and subsequently was present at a Service at St Bride's Institute, London EC4.

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## OBITUARIES

## VICE-ADMIRAL SIR HUGH MACKENZIE

Vice-Admiral Sir Hugh Mackenzie, KCB, DSO and Bar, DSC, the first Chief Polaris Executive, 1963-68, died on October 9 aged 75. He was born on July 3, 1913.

**W**hatever history's ultimate verdict on the Cold War, there is little doubt that the cohesion of Nato, the political standing of the United Kingdom and the deterrence of conflict in Europe were made more robust by British ballistic missile submarines. The continuing operational effectiveness of the submarine-borne nuclear deterrent is a lasting tribute to "Rufus" Mackenzie.

Mackenzie's career as a submariner encompassed an exceptional war record. After the war he rose to the senior post of his profession and, finally, to highly effective leadership of the project to create a British submarine-borne nuclear deterrent based on the American Polaris missile.

Mackenzie was assigned to manage the Polaris project on Boxing Day 1962, following the Nassau meeting between Harold Macmillan and President Kennedy at which it was agreed that Britain would be supplied with Polaris in place of the cancelled Skylark air-to-surface missile. Less than six years later, in July 1968, the Royal Navy assumed responsibility for the deterrent as *Resolution*, the first ballistic missile submarine, arrived in its patrol area.

Between these two dates, as Chief Polaris Executive (CPE), Mackenzie had to set up management systems, and then control a project of novel size, cost and complexity — one which did not rest easily among the established equipment procurement structures. Although a high priority was given to the work, the national resources available were slender, and experienced personnel in short supply.

Technical challenges also abounded. The Polaris system relied on a weapon of previously unimaginable range being fired from a nuclear-powered submarine that

would be able to remain underwater and at depth and thus practically invulnerable to surface vessels — for the entire duration of its patrol, which could be a month or more. In addition to building a class of sophisticated new submarines the size of cruisers, Britain was to manufacture its own warheads and re-entry vehicles (the "nosecone"); meanwhile, the selected A3 version of Polaris, with a range of 2,850 miles, was in a late stage of development.

While some of the supplementary projects fell outside CPE's direct remit, Mackenzie had to maintain overall coordination. The vitally important relationship with the US Navy was helped by the mutual respect that built up between Mackenzie and his American opposite number — both were submarine officers with wartime careers of comparable distinction.

Mackenzie was also responsible for relations with organisations such as Vickers and Rolls-Royce, and he saw himself as the project's voice at ministerial and Admiralty Board level in Whitehall. He also had to deal with all those who feared that the proper business of the Royal Navy would be damaged by this expensive irrelevancy.

Mackenzie took a strongly positive approach to management, and he imported a battery of innovative management techniques. As a result, he achieved the singular feat of bringing a major postwar defence project home on time and within budget.

Hugh Stirling Mackenzie joined the Royal Navy at Dartmouth in 1927 at the age of 14, qualifying as a submariner in 1935. In 1941 he passed the commanding officers' selection course and took command of the submarine *Thrasher*, which soon became one of the more successful members of the famous T-class in the submarine flotillas based in the Mediterranean. Thirteen of these submarines were sunk, nearly half of those that operated there.

Mackenzie, known as "Rufus" or the Red Mackenzie (to differentiate him from Lieutenant A. J. Mackenzie — the "Black" — who was lost off Capri in December 1942), had his own narrow escapes. In February 1942, after the submarine had sunk a supply ship, the subsequent counter-attack left two unexploded bombs trapped in *Thrasher's* upper deck casing structure. With the submarine on the surface and liable to have to dive hurriedly at any moment, one of these bombs required Lieutenant P. W. Roberts, the First Lieutenant, and Petty Officer T. W. Gould, the cox-



tenant A. J. Mackenzie — the "Black" — who was lost off Capri in December 1942, had his own narrow escapes. In February 1942, after the submarine had sunk a supply ship, the subsequent counter-attack left two unexploded bombs trapped in *Thrasher's* upper deck casing structure. With the submarine on the surface and liable to have to dive hurriedly at any moment, one of these bombs required Lieutenant P. W. Roberts, the First Lieutenant, and Petty Officer T. W. Gould, the cox-

swain, to crawl some way inside the casing to free it. For their bravery, both were awarded the Victoria Cross.

In July 1942 *Thrasher* was attacked while in a submarine sanctuary area off Port Said by a friendly Swordfish aircraft which dropped four 250lb depth-charges. Although very badly damaged, *Thrasher* was saved by its sturdy construction and skilled handling, and just managed to make it back to harbour.

At one point *Thrasher's* Jolly Roger flag, traditionally flown from periscope standards on return from a patrol, sported the insignia for 11 sinkings by torpedo and seven by gunfire. Important targets were petrol carriers for Rommel's Afrika Korps. For his contribution to the campaign Mackenzie was awarded the DSO in 1942 and a bar in 1943. Mackenzie's next command was the new submarine *Tantalus*. Initially based at Fremantle in Australia, he was noted for making the two longest patrols of the war by a British submarine, much of

## TONY PARKER

Tony Parker, oral historian, died on October 3 aged 75. He was born on June 25, 1923.

TONY PARKER'S ears were once described as "a national treasure". As an interviewer he saw it as his task to be quietly attentive, to record without comment or judgement. He was simply a blackboard for people to write on, he said. The impact of his interviews rested on the immediacy of recorded speech and it was this which made Parker the greatest oral historian of our day.

After the war, Mackenzie was promoted commander in 1946 and for two years occupied the post of "teacher", responsible for running the submarine commanding officers' qualifying course (known as the "perisher"). After a tour as second-in-command of the cruiser *Liverpool*, he was promoted captain and commanded a destroyer squadron, a research establishment and a shore training school. For two years from 1956 he held the important post of Chief Staff Officer to the Flag Officer Submarines.

Promoted rear-admiral in July 1961, Mackenzie was appointed Flag Officer Submarines during a testing time for the submarine service as it absorbed the new technology and operating skills required for nuclear-propelled attack submarines. He was appointed CB in 1963 and KCB in 1966, retiring as a vice-admiral in 1968.

In retirement he was chairman of the Navy League until 1974 and director, then chairman, of the Atlantic Salmon Trust until 1983.

On August 28 this year Mackenzie attended a ceremony at the Faslane base to mark the decommissioning of *HMS Repulse*, the last of the Polar-class destroyers, the deterrent now maintained by Vanguard class submarines with Trident missiles. He could thus claim to have seen the Polaris project through from start to finish.

He is survived by his wife Helen, whom he married in 1946, and by their son and two daughters.

This style was to form the basis for Parker's ensuing work as a writer. After the text of this first interview was reproduced in *The Listener*, a flood of work followed. His first book, *The Courage of His Convictions* (1962), was based on tape recorded interviews with a recidivist criminal with multiple convictions for robbery and violence. It painted a remarkable picture of an intelligent and well-read man who had no intention of ever "going straight" and no wish to reform. It was typical of Parker that he insisted the subject should be included as a joint author.

Parker would — somewhat misleadingly — claim that he had "no personality". But beneath his controlled exterior, a passionate resentment of the inequality and unfairness of modern society flared. His interests and sympathies lay chiefly with the underdog or the outsider. But his range was wide. *Soldier, Soldier* (1985) is a portrait of military life including, even, an interview with a general. Parker also aimed to give a balanced view. In *May the Lord in His Mercy be Kind to Belfast* (1993) he included interviews with terrorists on both sides of the divide, as well as contributions from priests, housewives, teachers and the Army.

Alert to the drama and interest of everyday life, Parker would spend up to 15 hours — spread over several weeks — with his subjects, listening with patience and sympathy, allowing characters gradually to unfold through repetitions, evasions and hesitation. Several of his interviewees became friends. He rarely found anyone's company tedious, but enjoyed the "perpetual surprises" of what they had to say.

Parker shied away from passing judgment and formulating theories on what he heard. "There are so many theories," he used to say. "Childhood deprivation, alcohol, the double-Y chromosome". He was sure that in 400 years people would look back on our current maps of human behaviour and find them as ludicrous as the old 15th-century maps of navigators who thought Africa was where America is.

Yet though Parker was perceived as having a basically "Christian" approach to his subjects, he himself was not altogether gratified by this perception. Though brought up in a fairly traditionally religious way, with weekly visits to Sunday school, he described himself later as an agnostic and ultimately as an atheist. He was content, he said, to be in a state of "invincible ignorance". He even — as, for example, when he was writing about Northern Ireland — found this condition to be an advantage.

Parker wrote several television plays based on material gathered in interviews. Many were broadcast on the BBC's pithily realistic *Play for Today* series, among them *Five Women*, about female prisoners, and *A Chariot of Fire*, about a child molester.

Parker was twice married. He leaves a widow, Margery, a former social worker, who used to help him in the task of transcribing taped interviews longhand. He is also survived by five children.

## ALAN DOWNES

Alan Downes, ITN cameraman, died on October 9 of cancer aged 58. He was born in Enfield on September 6, 1938.

ALAN DOWNES was a television cameraman who catalogued the world's woes in a brave, determined yet compassionate way for more than 30 years. One moment defines his craft — the pictures of Kim Phuc, the little girl running down the road in Vietnam after an American napalm attack on a village.

If Vietnam was the first war where the outcome was influenced by television, then this was one of the moments that brought its reality home to millions. Downes was the

only version of the whole sequence. An American network, whose cameraman was standing next to Downes, edited out the close-ups of the girl because they were thought too disturbing for an American audience.

Downes's sound man that day, Tom Phillips, tells how they first thought the dark marks on the girl were the burnt rags of what had been her clothes. Then they realised it was the effects of napalm on her skin. Downes felt that the journalists handling the story were too interested in the mechanics of the attack, whereas he sensed the lasting power of the image itself.

The impact of the sequence on public opinion around the world was shared with the still

paratroop drop. Nicholson began to deliver a piece to camera describing the scene around them, but interrupted himself to point to the first soldier to land. "Over there, Alan", he shouted to the camera. It was a rare but appropriate on-air name-check. Downes filmed as Nicholson walked up to the Turkish soldiers as they landed; he shook hands with some of them and said: "Welcome to Cyprus."

Alan Downes's career began in the post-room at the start of ITN in 1955. As a messenger Downes met the cameramen who had joined from the newsreels, and heard their stories of life on the road. He learnt to use a camera while doing National Service, and then returned to ITN as a fully fledged cameraman.

He went on to film conflict around the world — Angola, Afghanistan, El Salvador, Eritrea, Biafra, the Iran-Iraq war and, with sad frequency, Northern Ireland. These trips won him awards and acclaim.

But he also enjoyed a wider range of work. For instance,

he spent a year working on a documentary on the Prince and Princess of Wales (*In Private, In Public*), where the remarkable access the programme-makers were given relied on winning the confidence of all those involved. Downes's professionalism was instrumental in putting everyone at their ease. He passed the test of all great cameramen in winning his colleagues' trust — his rushes always revealed that he had seen and recorded a lot of details that nobody else had

noticed despite being there when they were shot.

On one royal shoot, however,

he was unable to remain unobtrusive and himself became the centre of attention. At an official photocall for the young Prince William, Prince Charles brought his son forward so that he could hold a television camera for himself; the cameraman he turned the tables on was Alan Downes.

Because he was so experienced and widely-travelled, the chances were that whenever a young producer or reporter went out on a story with him, Downes had been there before, often to do a similar story. He used this experience to nurse many reporters, such as Jon Snow, through their first days. Anyone stuck in a foxhole with him could rely on Downes to get them out of it alive. And, when the team got back to base, the chances were that Downes had eaten before at the best local restaurant and knew the wine list. He would probably have his vintage chart with him anyway, just in case.

He retired from ITN in 1991. For the previous four years he had been the company's chief cameraman.

During the last few months, when the effects of a brain tumour had confined him first to hospital in London and then to a Hertfordshire hospice, his visitors included many of the most familiar faces of 40 years of British television news. They came to pay their respects to a man whose work has become part of television history.

His wife, Sheila, and their two children survive him.

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